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CHAPLAIN RICHARD C. HALVERSON
97TH AND 98TH CONGRESSES
1981–1984

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THE CHAPLAIN OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE

98TH CONGRESS, 2D SESSION • SENATE DOCUMENT NO. 98-42

Prayers

OFFERED BY THE CHAPLAIN
OF THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Rev. Richard C. Halverson, D.D.

At the Opening of the Daily Sessions
of the United States Senate
During the 97th Congress
1981-1982

MAY 1, 1984.—Ordered to be printed with an illustration

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
WASHINGTON

NINETY-EIGHTH CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

AT THE SECOND SESSION

Begun and held at the City of Washington on Monday, the twenty-third of January, one thousand nine hundred and eighty-four.

Senate Resolution 375

Resolved, That there be printed with an appropriate illustration as a Senate document, the prayers by the Reverend Richard C. Halverson, D.D., the Chaplain of the Senate, at the opening of the daily sessions of the Senate during the Ninety-seventh Congress, together with any other prayers offered by him during that period in his official capacity as Chaplain of the Senate; and that there be printed such additional copies not to exceed $1,200 in cost of such document for the use of the Joint Committee on Printing.

SEC. 2. The copy for the document authorized in section 1 shall be prepared under the direction of the Joint Committee on Printing.

DEDICATED

To the Members and Officers of

Fourth Presbyterian Church, Bethesda, Md.

Whose love, caring and response to our Lord's mission in history was of inestimable encouragement and which prepared me for the privilege of serving as pastor to United States Senators, their families and all of the support staffs in the Senate and their families.

Introduction

by

VICE PRESIDENT GEORGE H. W. BUSH

We are indebted at this critical juncture in history to have the dedicated guidance and prayers of our Senate Chaplain, Dr. Richard C. Halverson, whose wisdom and wit penetrate problems and reveal the solutions to meet the ultimate measure of testing: God's view of man's actions.

The individual faith in God that each of us holds determines both our personal commitment and contribution and that of our nation. As we make decisions that will direct the destiny of our country, Dr. Halverson reminds us it is crucial that we remain tethered to a firm faith in God.

As our forefathers, we are called to prayer, committing our lives and our country to God's will. Most importantly, we are to prove our faith daily, in the knowledge that faith without action is not real.

My prayers join yours as we work together for peace and prosperity of our great land.

Foreword

by

SENATOR HOWARD H. BAKER, JR., MAJORITY LEADER

At a time when the role of religion is being called into question, the Reverend Richard C. Halverson goes quietly about the business of proving just how important divine inspiration is to the daily work of the United States Senate.

The prayers of Dr. Halverson are models of reverence, relevance, and eloquence which invoke not only the blessings of God on us, but our own best efforts to deal fairly and wisely with the great issues of our time.

Our chaplain is a very special man as this collection of his prayers makes abundantly clear.

Foreword

by

SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD, MINORITY LEADER

During the stormy first weeks of the 1787 Constitutional Convention, Benjamin Franklin—aged, wise, renowned, and revered—rose to put an irenic proposal before his contentious colleagues—a request that the Convention daily start its deliberations with a prayer led by a Philadelphia clergyman. Borrowing from Psalm 127, Franklin told the assembly, "We have been assured . . . in the sacred writings, that, 'except the Lord build the house they labor in vain that build it.' I firmly believe this: and I also believe that without his concurring aid we shall succeed in this political building no better than the builders of Babel . . . ."

Franklin's request presaged a practice observed since the birth of the Republic. From 1789 onward, with a season of prayer, the United States Senate has initiated its daily proceedings. That ceremony, not a perfunctory tipping of the legislative hat to an abstract principle, reflects a sincere search by countless men and women in the Senate's history for an eternal perspective on the contemporary problems of each passing generation of Americans.

Late-twentieth-century Senators are no less aware of their need for spiritual assistance in seeeking solutions to the problems of this age. Since 1981, Dr. Richard C. Halverson has served as their primary resource in meeting that need. As the Chaplain of the Senate, Dr. Halverson has cast an understanding and compassionate shadow across the lives of many in the wider Senate community, and, out of his long years in the pastorate, has included in his formal Senate prayers a winsome acknowledgement of human frailty and God's inexhaustible wisdom and patience, and a reminder of the Infinite's gracious concern with mankind's daily affairs, great and small alike.

The prayers contained in this slender volume in part document the most recent phase of Dr. Halverson's distinguished ministry, and I commend their reading to anyone seeking spiritual moorings in today's turbulence or peering through history's haze for a spark of Divine Guidance. Certainly, Benjamin Franklin would be pleased, in reading Dr. Halverson's aspirations and intercessions, to note that, during the Ninety-seventh Congress, the Senate has so admirably fulfilled his profound request.

Prayers*

OFFERED BY THE CHAPLAIN

At the Opening of the Daily Sessions of the United States Senate

DURING THE NINETY-SEVENTH CONGRESS

1981–1982

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*All Biblical quotations are from the King James version unless otherwise indicated.

First Session

[January 5, 1981—December 16, 1981]*

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1981

FATHER IN HEAVEN, we come to Thee today in gratitude for the gracious love and provision which Thou hast lavished upon us.

As we enter this week of hard work, with decisions to make that often have cosmic implications, help us to keep our priorities in order.

None of us is here by accident. Behind the diligence of staffs, supporters, and our own individual campaign efforts, behind the votes of the people, we recognize divine appointment, for Thou hast said: "Promotion cometh neither from the East or West or South. But God is the judge: He putteth down one and setteth up another." Grant us the grace to exercise our accountability to Thee.

We know how often families are casualties to the demanding business of government and the often seductive forces of power and privilege and position which we enjoy. Help us as husbands and wives to submit to each other out of reverence for the Lord. Help us as husbands to love our wives as Christ loved His church and laid down His life for her. Help us to be good models whom our children may safely follow.

Help us to be accountable to the people who gave us our mandate and to the world which looks to this body for responsible leadership.

Help us to be good stewards of our health—to care for our hearts and minds and bodies with proper food and exercise and rest.

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*Dr. Halverson's service commenced on February 2, 1981.

We ask this in the name of Him who is Incarnate Love. Amen.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1981

GRACIOUS GOD, at a time when the people's level of expectation is high, grant to Thy servants in public life the wisdom to do the work of legislation, administration, and justice for the common good.

When criticism comes from the people who expect miracles and from those of the press who look for weakness, give to Members of the Senate, their families, and their staffs the grace of patience and love. Help them to heed criticism that is constructive and to grow by it. Help them to be compassionate and forgiving toward the critics who would tear down and destroy. Grant to them courage to live above hostility and to be faithful to their task when circumstances are discouraging and negative.

Brace them in Thy strength against the enervating effects of frustration and futility. Give them the confidence that "God works in everything for good to them who love Him and are called according to His purposes."

Bless them, Lord, with love and laughter and life, through Him who by His death gives life to all who believe. Amen.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1981

LORD GOD of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—of Moses and the prophets—Jesus and the apostles; Lord God of the ages and all peoples of all races, grant that this Nation may fulfill its God-destined role among all nations.

Heighten our gratitude for the blessings so lavishly bestowed upon us; deepen our humility in recognition of the resources so uncommonly plentiful in our land; broaden our sense of justice to include the deprived and the forgotten of the world; lengthen the outreach of our love and goodness to include all who suffer, the homeless and the hungry, the persecuted and the oppressed.

Sensitize us to the hurt and pain of all peoples at home and abroad. Make us advocates of the voiceless, the weak, the poor, the elderly, the neglected. Let compassion be the hallmark of our deliberations.

We pray this in the matchless name of Him who in love gave His life for all peoples. Amen.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1981

Let us pray today in the words of President George Washington's prayer for his country.

"ALMIGHTY GOD: We make our earnest prayer that Thou wilt keep the United States in Thy holy protection; that Thou wilt incline the hearts of the citizens to cultivate a spirit of subordination and obedience to government; and entertain a brotherly affection and love for one another and for their fellow citizens of the United States at large. And finally that Thou wilt most graciously be pleased to dispose us all to do justice, to love mercy, and to demean ourselves with that charity, humility, and pacific temper of mind which were the characteristics of the divine author of our blessed religion, and without a humble imitation of whose example in these things we can never hope to be a happy Nation. Grant our supplication, we beseech Thee through Jesus Christ our Lord." Amen.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1981

ALMIGHTY GOD, from whom, through whom, to whom are all things, we beseech Thee on behalf of our Nation and its leadership at this significant hour in national affairs.

We pray for the President of the United States as he addresses the Congress and the people. Give to him special wisdom, special strength, special clarity, as he communicates his message so crucial domestically and internationally.

We pray for the Members of Congress that they may hear with objectivity and respond with integrity as they understand their individual and collective responsibility.

We pray for the people that they will hear the President's message uncluttered by selfish interests and parochial concerns.

Grant to all of us a deep desire for the best for our country and the world. Let this be an evening marked by the highest and finest in loyal, dedicated citizenship.

We ask this in the name of Him who is the Lord of history. Amen.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1981

GRACIOUS GOD, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, from whom we have no secrets, in humility we pray for Thy mercy and grace.

We thank Thee for Thine unconditional love which proffers forgiveness and renewal. We are grateful for the promise that if we confess our sins Thou art faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Deliver us from stubborn pride that refuses to acknowledge our need and confess our sin. Save us from the guilt that corrodes our souls. Free us from every emotion within and circumstance without which prevent us from effective service for our families, our constituents, and our Nation.

We ask this in the name of Him who died that we might be forgiven. Amen.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1981

OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN, who gives life and breath and all things to all people, we pray for Thy gracious guidance.

We are one as humans. We are one as Americans. We are one as Senators. We are one in responsibility to the Nation and the world. As the Senate begins the heavy task of discussion and debate in considering the President's proposals, grant that oneness will transcend division. In the fine art of compromise, may value and principle not be sacrificed. Out of the tension of disagreement let resolution bring peace and justice for all.

And grant that what is done in this powerful community to be the glory of God, in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1981

ALMIGHTY GOD, judge of all the Earth and perfect in Thy justice, we beseech Thee for the Members of the Senate and all public servants. Make us aware that our ultimate accountability is to Thee.

The Word declares that we have no secrets from Thee; that Thou dost know our thoughts afar off and the words yet unspoken on our tongue. Thou dost see not only what we do but why we do it. Put a watch on our motivation. Imbue us with the desire and determination to act in ways pleasing to Thee. Help us to think God's thoughts after Him knowing that as we conform to Thy will we shall most certainly fulfill our reponsibility to the people.

Fill our hearts, O God, with a passion for Thy glory, through Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 1981

GRACIOUS GOD, OUR HEAVENLY FATHER, we pray for those without whom the Senate could not do its work. We pray first for the Senators' families. Protect spouses and children from all the forces peculiar to this city that are so destructive to marriage and the home. Enable the Senators to give priority to them in time, interest, and love. Preserve their families in health and strength, O God, by Thy grace and power.

We commend Senator Dole and others who are ill for restoration to health. We commend Mrs. Stennis and Mrs. Randolph for comfort and care.

We pray for the Senators' staffs, O God, for their faithful service which frees the leaders for their tasks and provides them with the materials to legislate effectively.

We pray for all the men and women who help in the Senate—for the Sergeant at Arms and his staff, for the Secretary and his staff, for the Secretaries of the majority and the minority and their staffs, for the Parliamentarians, for the Congressional Record staff, for the Journal keepers, for the reading clerks, for those who administer the cloak rooms, for Doorkeepers and police, for pages and elevator operators. Bless these loyal friends and their families and dear God, help us to love one another as Thou dost love us.

Of special concern is the city of Atlanta. We pray especially for those who have lost children, for those who must resolve the problem and those who precipitated it.

We ask this in the Saviour's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 1981

GRACIOUS GOD, we pray today for wisdom and humility as the Senate exercises its great power. As pressure from interest groups builds, protect the Senators, their families, and staffs against the forces which would exploit. Strengthen their courage and integrity when seductive influences probe for vulnerability and weakness.

Almighty God, arm the leadership of this Nation with resolve to follow through on the commitments made in political campaigns. Encourage them when futility and frustration taunt their efforts. Let Thy manifold blessings crown their faithfulness as they seek to know and do God's will.

We ask this in the name of Him whose name is above every name and whose kingdom is without end. Amen.

TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 1981

Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless His holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His ben-

efits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities, who heals all thy diseases.—Psalm 103: 1-3.

OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN, it is difficult for strong men to admit weakness, and in our secular culture it is considered unacceptable. Help us, O God, to humble ourselves before Thee, to acknowledge our weakness and failure and receive Thy strength and wisdom. Give us grace to confess our sins and receive forgiveness in the confidence that Thou dost forgive us our sin and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Help us remember that whosoever exalts himself shall be abased and whosoever humbles himself before the Lord shall be exalted.

We thank Thee Father that Thy strength is manifest in us when we admit our weakness. Enable us to do our work today in Thy grace and power and love.

We ask this in the name of Him who is perfection incarnate. Amen.

THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 1981

MERCIFUL FATHER IN HEAVEN, we beseech Thee on behalf of all those who are hurting. We pray for the people of Atlanta in their fear and frustration and anger for those whose children have been killed, for the authorities who work tirelessly for a solution, and for all throughout the country who feel the agony and frustration with Atlanta.

We pray for the poor, the homeless, the hungry, the jobless, and those who live in daily fear that their positions or jobs or the source of their support will be cut off. We pray for the Members of the Senate who feel the hurt of the people and struggle for equitable and just legislation. We pray for all leadership which bears the burden of our society in domestic and international affairs.

We pray for those outwardly composed who suffer within and are not free to share their hurt. May they receive special comfort from Thy spirit.

Especially do we remember Senator Jennings Randolph in the loss of his beloved wife.

We ask all this in the name of the gracious Saviour whose love is unconditional and whose care is unlimited. Amen.

THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 1981

OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN, who art infinite in wisdom and justice, Thou hast said in Thy word,

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives to all men generously and without reproaching, and it will be given him.—James 1: 5 (RSV).

We pray for wisdom for the Senators as they work through the tensions between budget reduction and the needs and demands of the people and Government. Give them grace to ask for and receive Thy wisdom and guidance. May the Holy Spirit fill the Capitol and offices with divine presence. Infuse hearts and minds with judgment which transcends human reason.

Be gracious, O God, to the personal needs which we so easily conceal. Heal those who are hurting. Strengthen those who are weak. Encourage those who fear. Make resolute those who equivocate. Free those who feel cornered. Lord God, let Thy will be done in the Senate today. Rule and overrule in the affairs of this Nation.

We make these requests in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

MONDAY, MARCH 23, 1981

FATHER IN HEAVEN, who are able to keep us from falling, whose grace is always sufficient, protect Thy servants in the Senate from evil influences—so pervasive, so corrupting, so seductive, so relentless—that would neutralize their influence, drag them down to infamy, and destroy their families. Strengthen them against unworthy critics who have no purpose but to tear down. Sensitize them to criticism that will make them more effective at their tasks. Guard them against debilitating sickness. Keep them and their loved ones well and strong.

We thank Thee for the recovery and return of the Secretary of the Senate, William F. Hildenbrand.

Thank you, Father, for Dr. Cary and his staff who take so seriously the responsibility for the health of the Senators.

Lord God, let the mantle of Thy love and grace envelop this place. Let Thy glory be manifest here. Let Thy presence be felt and Thy will be done.

We ask this in the name of Him who in love gave Himself for us all. Amen.

TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 1981

ALMIGHTY GOD, sovereign Lord of history, from whom, through whom, and to whom are all things, if a sparrow does not fall without Your knowledge, certainly the issues facing this body this week concern Thee.

Thy word assures us that Thou dost "work in everything for good to those who love Thee and are called according to Thy purpose." May that confidence guide the Senators as they seek equitable and just solutions to complicated problems which influence the destiny of every American. Give wisdom to discern, courage to decide, and let Thy will be done in the Senate as in Heaven.

Bless the faithful men and women who manage the machinery of the Senate, without whom this institution could not function. We thank Thee for their efficient and productive labors.

Fill this place with Thy love and peace, we pray in the name of the Messiah. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 1981

Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name! Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits, who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, *who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good as long as you live* . . . Psalm 103: 1-5 (RSV).

GRACIOUS, LOVING GOD, forgive the indifference with which we receive life's common blessings Thou dost lavish upon us daily. We enjoy love of family while many families are broken by persecution and oppression. We have more than we need to eat while millions never have enough and thousands starve to death each day. We live in warm, comfortable homes while millions languish in refugee camps.

Father in Heaven, receive our inexpressible gratitude and fill us with compassion for the poor, the oppressed, the homeless, and the hungry.

We ask this in the name of Him whose love and care includes all. Amen.

THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 1981

Blessed is everyone who fears the Lord, who walks in His ways! You shall eat the fruit of the labor of your hands; you shall be happy, and it shall be well with you. Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house; your children will be like olive shoots around your table. Lo, thus shall the man be blessed who fears the Lord.—Psalm 128: 1-4 (RSV).

OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN, we pray for our families. Protect spouses and children from loneliness, frustration, and distrust. Guard our families against the disintegrating forces so prevalent in the federal city. Help the Senators and all associated in the business of this body to keep priorities straight and give to their families the love and attention which Thou dost ordain.

We ask this for Thy glory. Amen.

FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 1981

ALMIGHTY GOD, SOVEREIGN LORD OF ALL, THY WORD DECLARES . . . *there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.*—Romans 13: 1 (RSV).

Grant that Thy servants remember that they are here by divine appointment and accountable to Thee in their work.

Give them Thy wisdom as they wrestle with complex issues—clarity in debate—courage of conviction as they vote. Keep them from compromise which sacrifices principle. Lead them to justice and compassionate decisions. May Thy grace guide their deliberations and Thy blessing crown their efforts.

In the name of Him who is the light of the world. Amen.

MONDAY, MARCH 30, 1981

Hear O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord; and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might.—Deuteronomy 6: 4–5 (RSV).

GOD OF ABRAHAM, ISAAC, AND JACOB, we know instinctively that this commandment is the very foundation of life and order. Our hearts witness to its truth.

We so easily invert our priorities, making position and power and popularity more important than Thee. Forgive us the idolatry which puts things above God—which worships the idols of securlarism and humanism.

Help us to see that true humanness is found in the love of God—that Thy command is basic to order and justice and peace.

Lord God, help us to love Thee and serve Thee with all our hearts, and with all our souls, and with all our might; we pray in Thy name and for Thy sake. Amen.

TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 1981

GRACIOUS FATHER IN HEAVEN, our hearts unite with all people in profound gratitude that the life of the President of the United States was spared. We pray for his rapid and complete recovery. We commend to Thy loving care Mrs. Reagan and the family. May the peace which passes understanding fill their hearts and minds.

We pray for total recovery for Mr. Brady, Mr. McCarthy, and Mr. Delahanty. Grant the healing touch of the great Physician in their lives and the comfort and peace of His presence with their loved ones. We thank Thee for the Secret Service and the police and all who provide security at the risk of their lives.

We pray for the Vice President and all in authority Thy guidance and direction through these crucial hours and for our Nation that we may persevere to Thy glory.

We have been vividly reminded how transitory life is. May we, therefore, conduct ourselves in the wisdom of James, who wrote, *Come now, you who say—*

Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and get gain; whereas you do not know about tomorrow. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, If the Lord wills, we shall live and we shall do this or that.— James 4: 13–15 (RSV).

Hear our prayer in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 1981

"O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home.

"Before the hills in order stood,
Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting Thou art God,
To endless years the same."

—ISAAC WATTS, 1719.

Eternal Father, bound as we are by the temporal, we come to Thee in gratitude for Thy help through these past 2 days. We thank Thee for the excellent condition of the President. May his restoration be speedy and thorough. We are grateful for Mr. Brady's recovery and for the health of Mr. McCarthy and Mr. Delahanty.

As parents we identify with the pain Mr. and Mrs. Hinckley are suffering and we commend them to Thy loving and tender care. We pray for their son in his rebellion and confusion.

We thank Thee for the smooth, quiet, and efficient way Government has been managed in this crisis. In Thy sovereign grace guide the leadership of our Nation that Thy will may be done on Earth as it is in Heaven. We ask this in Thy name and for Thy glory. Amen.

TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 1981

Almighty God, as human government is ordained by Thee to be Thy minister for good, grant that the Senate this day shall be guided by the wisdom of Thy word.

Thou hast said:

When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; but when the wicked rule, the people groan.—Proverbs 29: 2 (RSV).

Give Thy servants the desire and determination to legislate righteously.

Thou hast said:

A righteous man knows the rights of the poor; a wicked man does not understand such knowledge.—Proverbs 29: 7 (RSV).

May the business done in this place conform to Thy justice and equity.

Our Father in Heaven, we thank You for the good news from the hospital, and we commend to Thee the President and Mr. Brady and the others and their families.

Let Thy wisdom and love pervade this place and Thy law infuse our hearts and minds for Thy glory and in Thy name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 1981

We give thanks to Thee, O God; we give thanks; we call on Thy name and recount Thy wondrous deeds.—Psalm 75: 1 (RSV).

WE THANK THEE for the complete recovery of the President and the miraculous healing of Mr. Brady. We thank Thee for the restoration of Mr. McCarthy and Mr. Delahanty.

We thank Thee for our wives and our children, our neighbors and our friends. We thank Thee for the dedicated men and women who support the Senate in its great responsibility—for the office staffs—for the police—for elevator operators and those who maintain buildings and grounds. We thank Thee for the doorkeepers, the secretaries, the clerks, the administrators, the pages. Help us never to presume upon these gifts of service or take them for granted.

We thank Thee for each other, for the friendships which begin and mature among us. We thank Thee for the privileges we enjoy—for comfort, food, pleasure, work, and rest.

We thank Thee for our Nation—for its vast resources, its people, its freedom, and for those who sacrificed to build it and preserve it.

We thank Thee for Thyself, O God, for Thy grace and love. Receive our gratitude in the name of the Saviour and Lord. Amen.

MONDAY, APRIL 27, 1981

Let us spend a moment in silent prayer remembering Jim Brady and praying for his total healing.

[There was a moment of silent prayer.]

GRACIOUS GOD, OUR HEAVENLY FATHER, we thank Thee for the opportunities we have enjoyed this past recess. We thank

Thee for time with our families and pray that Thou wilt help us always to give them the priority they deserve and which Thy law commands. May Thy blessing abide in our homes as we resume the heavy schedule which legislation demands.

We thank Thee for opportunities to be with the people, to hear them and be advised by their thoughts. Help us never to demean their concerns and grant us patience to represent them adequately and fairly. Strengthen our resistance against selfish interests which violate democratic principles and let Thy peace and blessing be upon the people, especially those in critical need.

We thank Thee for the safe return of those who traveled on Government business. May their efforts prosper to the benefit of all peoples.

Father in Heaven, be especially with any in this large Senate family who are hurting at this time. May Thy comfort and care, Thy provision and protection be theirs continually.

We ask this in the name of the Saviour and Lord whose love and care include all and exclude none. Amen.

TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 1981

GRACIOUS FATHER IN HEAVEN, we are unspeakably grateful this evening that the President is strong enough to address the joint session of Congress. We pray that Thou wilt help him to be patient and not to overdo so that recovery will be complete. We pray that Thou wilt protect him from physical and emotional exhaustion and make him wise in his expenditure of time and energy.

Let Thy blessing rest upon the joint session. Lift our thoughts above the mundane and help us to see as Thou dost see. Deliver us from paltry and parochial interests. Inspire us with Thy vision for our Nation and enable us to fulfill the heavy duties of legislation in ways that will conform to the highest and best for all peoples.

Dear God, make Thy presence felt as we meet and Thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, we pray. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29, 1981

O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever.—Psalm 136: 1

LOVING GOD, let Thy love be shed abroad in our hearts. Thy word declares that love is the fulfilling of the law. Help us to love Thee with all our hearts and our neighbors as ourselves.

As the Congress settles down to the demanding work of legislation, energize them mentally and physically and emotionally. Deliver them from discouragement and frustration. Help them in their deliberations and debate to distinguish between substance and semantics—between rhetoric and reality. Free them from personal and partisan preoccupation that would defeat their aspirations and deprive the people of just and equitable solutions.

Lead us, O God of Love, in the way of peace and unity. Bind us together that we may be strong as a nation and provide for the world the leadership which the divine economy intends. Guide us in Thy way and in Thy will.

We ask this for Thy glory in the name of Thy Son whose love and sacrifice encompasses all people. Amen.

MONDAY, MAY 4, 1981

ALMIGHTY GOD who knowest all things and from whom nothing is hidden; limitless, timeless, unchanging Lord, let Thy glory fill this place, let Thy love fill our hearts, let Thy wisdom fill our minds.

In these crucial days some issues appear to be impossible of resolution. But we know that what is impossible for man is not impossible to Thee for whom all things are possible.

Thou hast said:

If any man lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproaching, and it will be given him.—James 1: 5 (RSV).

Grant to the Senators grace to acknowledge their need and give them Thy wisdom in their deliberations.

Thy great, impartial love encompasses all who are poor and elderly and distressed. Thou art able to guide to decisions which are responsive to their needs and conform to Thy justice and equity. Guide, O Lord, so that the legislation created here will transcend human wisdom and achieve the greatest good for the greatest number.

We pray this in the name of Thy Son, our Saviour for Thy glory and for the sake of the people of this Nation and the world. Amen.

TUESDAY, MAY 5, 1981

OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN, we thank Thee for the beautiful differences in the human family—for its varied shapes and sizes, its features and colors, its abilities and talents. We thank Thee for Democrats and Republicans and Independents. We thank Thee for liberals and conservatives, for moderates and radicals. Deliver us from the forces which would destroy our unity by eliminating our diversity.

Help us to appreciate the glorious tapestry of life—the harmonious symphony which we are together. Help us to respect and love each other, to listen and understand each other. Grant us the grace to work together in the strategic mix that is the United States of America.

We ask this in the name of the Lord of life and history. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 1981

FATHER IN HEAVEN, we pray this morning for our families. Thou didst begin human history with marriage and the family and history makes it clear that no civilization can survive the disintegration of the family. Forgive our negligence as husbands and wives and parents. Teach us to "be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ" as Thy word exhorts. Help husbands to love their wives as Christ loved the Church and laid down His life for her.

Forgive us when we fail to be models for our children, when our actions contradict our words and they wonder in their confusion whether to believe what we say or what we do. Forgive us for frustrating them by demanding of them conduct which we fail to demonstrate. Help us to love our children even when they do not conform to our hopes for them.

Remind us that when we are too busy for our families we are too busy.

Protect our families from the many destructive forces which are peculiar to this federal city and common among those who bear the responsibilities of national leadership. We pray this in the name of Him whose life was the very incarnation of selfless love. Amen.

THURSDAY, MAY 7, 1981

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

ALMIGHTY GOD, on this day set aside by the President as a day of prayer for the Nation, we join with millions of others in lifting our voices in gratitude, praise, and supplication.

The God who made the world and everything in it, Lord of Heaven and Earth who gives to all life and breath and everything; who has determined the allocated periods for the nations and the boundaries of their habitation.—Acts 17: 24–26 (RSV).

We praise Thee for the bounties which Thou hast lavished upon us as a nation.

We thank Thee for the abundance of natural resources, for a moderate and invigorating climate, for peoples of all races and the vast human potential they represent. We thank Thee for the courage and perseverance and inspiration of the disabled among us; for their contribution to our lives and to the national welfare.

Grant in these days of opportunity that we may be faithful to the destiny for which Thou didst raise us up as a nation. Keep us true to the moral and spiritual values which motivated those who sacrificed life and fortune and sacred honor to make us great. In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

FRIDAY, MAY 8, 1981

GRACIOUS FATHER IN HEAVEN, make this a blessed day for the Senators and all who serve with them as they finish a week of very hard work.

Grant to all who serve so faithfully here a pleasant weekend with family and friends. May there be opportunity for leisure and family nurture, for rest and relaxation and worship.

Bless these Thy servants Lord with healthy respite from the arduous duties of this week. In Jesus name. Amen.

MONDAY, MAY 11, 1981

OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN, as we begin this week of work, we thank Thee for the experiences of the weekend. We pray for those who have been disappointed, for those who are ill—in hospital or home, for those who are hurting in this large Senate family. May Thy grace abound in them with healing and hope.

As the huge, complicated process of Senate work begins, help us to treat each other as persons, not things. Help us to respect each other, honor each other, love each other, serve and encourage each other.

We ask this in the name of Him who as the Servant gave His life as ransom for all. Amen.

TUESDAY, MAY 12, 1981

ALMIGHTY GOD, sovereign Lord for whom history is the unfolding of Thy purpose, Thou hast a plan for the nations and for each of us individually. As a sparrow's fall does not escape Thy notice, certainly no business done in this place is of indifference to Thee.

Thy will concerns all things infinite and infinitesimal. Thou art a God of the microcosm as well as the macrocosm. We have no secrets from Thee. Our thoughts, our words yet unspoken, our desires are known to Thee. Lead us in Thy way, O God, and help us by Thy Holy Spirit's wisdom and guidance to do Thy will in all things today. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 1981

As the heart longs for flowing streams, so longs my soul for Thee, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.—Psalm 42: 1-2 (RSV).

Thou hast made us for Thyself O God and our souls are restless until they rest in Thee.—St. Augustine.

THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR THEE IN OUR HEARTS, O GOD. We need Thee. Our hearts are empty without Thee. Our souls are starved when we are indifferent to Thee. Help us to seek Thee, to open our hearts to Thee, to wait upon Thee, to love Thee.

Deliver us from the secularism and materialism that denies Thee and dehumanizes us. Restore to us the reality of Thy presence. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

MONDAY, MAY 18, 1981

FATHER IN HEAVEN, grant to this large Senate family a pleasant and productive week. Help them in all their relationships—to respect each other, to honor each other, to listen to each other. Help them in serving the Nation and the world to serve one another. Help them to love justice, to do mercy, and walk humbly with their God.

Teach us to love each other as Christ loved us and gave Himself for us. We thank Thee for the gracious example given us by the Pope in forgiving the one who attempted to assassinate him. We pray Thee for the pontiff's healing and ask for

Thy continued blessing upon him and those who serve with him in the church.

We pray for the President of the United States and all in the executive branch, for the Supreme Court and all involved in the judicial system, for all in authority at every level of Government. May we together seek to know Thy will and to do it.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 1981

ALMIGHTY GOD, Creator of all that is, Lord of Heaven and Earth, whom the Heaven of Heavens cannot contain; limitless, timeless, changeless; Father of all living, we worship and adore Thee. Receive our praise for Thy gracious providence in our affairs, our gratitude for Thy merciful love and favor.

Forgive us when we forget Thee, when we are so preoccupied with the transitory that we neglect the eternal; when we impute absolute value to that which is of relative importance; when we presume upon Thy generous provision and behave as though we need Thee not; when, by our attitude, we declare our independence from Thee.

Grant that our lives this day will be infused with Thy life, Thy love, Thy wisdom, and Thy power; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THURSDAY, MAY 21, 1981

OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN, as this week comes to a close with its hard work under great pressure, grant that this coming week will provide for Senators and staffs times of refreshment and restoration for body, mind, and spirit—and especially for family.

Help the Members of the Senate to make the difficult adjustment from the Hill to the home. Help them to remember that they are not Senators there, but husbands and fathers, that the people there are not staff but family.

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Father, public servants can never be entirely free from the responsibilities, but help them to take seriously the prior responsibility they have to their families. Grant that in addition to the work which demands attention during recess, there will be time for those to whom they owe a greater allegiance than to position, party, and politics. In Jesus' name. Amen.

MONDAY, JUNE 1, 1981

FATHER IN HEAVEN, we are grateful for the respite which recess provided and for the renewal with which we begin the hard work ahead. As the Senators deal with specific, controversial details of legislation, grant special energy, insight, and patience. Strengthen them against relentless pressure from constituents, lobbyists, and special interests. Help them to resolve differences without rancor and bitterness. Lead them in the way of compromise that does not sacrifice principle or self-respect and that preserves timeless values which are just, equitable and serve the common good.

We thank Thee for the long life and faithful public service of Carl Vinson and commend to Thee his loved ones and friends who mourn his loss.

Thank You, God, for dedicated men and women who manage the cloakrooms, who do the business of the Sergeant at Arms, the Secretary of the Senate, and the Senators' offices. Thank You for doorkeepers and security personnel who are always there. Thank You for elevator operators and pages who respond faithfully to constant demands. Thank You for cooks, waiters, and waitresses in the restaurants and for those who care for buildings, grounds, and facilities.

Dear God, teach us to appreciate each other, to respect and honor each other—to love each other as Thou dost love us in Christ. Amen.

TUESDAY, JUNE 2, 1981

ALMIGHTY GOD, who inhabits eternity, whose throne is heaven, whose footstool is the Earth; Thou art worthy to receive our worship and praise. We thank Thee for Thy gracious mercy and forgiveness when we fail and sin. We praise Thee for Thy grace which is lavished upon us despite our indifference to Thee, our pride and our preoccupation with self.

We worship Thee. We adore Thee. We glorify Thee. We humble ourselves before Thee. Worthy art Thou, Lord God of the universe, world without end. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 1981

FATHER IN HEAVEN, it is so easy for us to take life for granted. So often we have to lose a good thing before we appreciate it. We take health for granted until we get sick. We take family for granted until we are separated. We take friends for granted until we are alienated. We take privilege for granted until it is removed. We take for granted the faithful service of those who work with us until they leave us. We take freedom for granted until we are bound.

Forgive us, dear Lord, for this sin of presumption. Help us to be grateful for all the blessings and benefits which Thou dost bestow so benevolently upon us. Help us to love Thee and each other. Receive our gratitude and praise. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

MONDAY, JUNE 8, 1981

O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever.

O give thanks to the God of gods, for His steadfast love endures forever.—Psalm 136: 1, 2. (RSV).

ALMIGHTY GOD, Sovereign Lord of the universe, limitless, timeless, in whom resides all wisdom and all power. We worship Thee. We praise Thee for Thy justice, that Thou art impartial in Thy love, long suffering in Thy mercy, enduring in Thy grace, and infinite in Thy faithfulness. Great God our Father, we thank Thee for Thy matchless favor, Thy gracious love that enfolds, secures, and sustains us. We thank Thee for Thy infinite grace which covers all our transgressions, forgives and cleanses us from all our sins. We praise Thee. We adore Thee. We worship Thee.

"Our God, our Help in ages past,
Our Hope for years to come,
Our Shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal Home.

"Before the hills in order stood,
Or Earth received her frame,
From everlasting, Thou art God,
To endless years the same."

—Isaac Watts, 1719.

Amen.

TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 1981

Gracious Father in Heaven, to whom all thoughts are revealed, all desires known, we pray for this large Senate family where there are secret needs known only to Thee, Thou knowest those who are hurting among us: The one who is discouraged or frustrated; the one who struggles against a temptation or a habit which is enervating and exhausting—emotionally and physically. Thou knowest the family who has stopped loving, where there is brokenness because of selfishness or misunderstanding or where youth are rebellious. Thou knowest where there is a stubborn sickness that does not respond to medication or treatment. Thou knowest where debilitating guilt is corroding a soul. Thou knowest those who feel they are at the end of the line with nowhere to turn.

Father, we commend to Thee all who need the love and healing, the grace and renewal which Thou alone canst give.

In the name of Him who loved and healed all who came to Him. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 1981

OUR FATHERS' GOD TO THEE, author of liberty, to Thee we pray. Long may our land be bright, with freedom's holy light. Protect us by Thy might, great God our King.

How easily we forget Thy gracious providence that brought our forebears to these shores, that sustained them through bitter adversity. How easily we forget, and assume that our might, our wisdom, our ingenuity alone produced this great Nation. What will it take, O God, to make us know that we cannot do it alone? What calamity must fall before we humble ourselves and acknowledge our dependence upon Thee?

We make thousands of laws to help us keep the Ten Commandments, and then invent ways to violate them and make it legal. In our pride, we suffer the illusion that we are solving our problems while violence, crime, alcoholism, drug abuse, divorce, and venereal disease grow to epidemic proportions. We overconsume while millions never have enough. We reduce inalienable human rights into I-can-do-as-I-please or I-have-got-it-coming-to-me or privilege without responsibility. We talk peace and prepare for war.

Lord God help us. Quicken our minds to seek Thy wisdom, our hearts to repent, our wills to obey Thee. Return us to the noble dependence upon Thee by which our forefathers persevered against incredible odds to give us our grand national legacy.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 1981

ALMIGHTY GOD of love whose plan for history is to unite all things in Christ, we pray for the unity of our people. We do not ask for uniformity with its leveling process that reduces everything and everybody to the lowest common denominator. We ask for true unity with its bountiful diversity, in which each person finds individual fulfillment in the community of love. Give us unity like the symphony with its variety of instruments, its many different notes which produce the grand harmony. Give us the unity of the tapestry with its threads of every color woven into one masterful design.

Help us to find this unity in the Senate. Help us to appreciate each other, to honor our differences—even the differences which are in opposition—but out of which come the synthesis of truth and action that represents the maximum response of our corporate power and influence.

Help us serve one another, to love one another. We pray this in the name of Him who was Incarnate Love. Amen.

MONDAY, JUNE 15, 1981

Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord; and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might.—Deuteronomy 6: 4, 5 (RSV).

GOD OF ABRAHAM, Isaac, and Jacob, God of Moses and the prophets, God of Jesus and the Apostles, we are created to worship Thee, to love Thee, to serve Thee. Thou dost not need our worship but we need to worship, our nature demands it. We are something less than human when we fail to worship Thee.

Deliver us from all that would deny our humanity. Remind us of our weakness and fallibility. Grant us grace to listen to those with whom we disagree and out of the forge of conflicting views grant that truth and justice emerge.

Let Thy light, Thy wisdom, Thy righteousness, Thy love fill our minds and hearts and lead us in Thy way to do Thy will for Thy glory. Through Jesus Christ, Saviour and Lord. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17, 1981

FATHER IN HEAVEN, no group of men and women in the world bear greater responsibility than those who compose the Senate of the United States. No group holds more power and greater potential for the good of all people. Enable this body to realize total fulfillment of its destiny.

Jesus said:

If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand.—Mark 3: 24 (RSV).

Lord God strengthen the Senate against every divisive force that would neutralize its influence.

Give to the Members of the Senate with their diverse and often conflicting views, a high sense of the common purpose which unites them. Deliver them from stubborn pride that imputes to itself infallibility, that gives absolute value to views that are of relative importance, and that pits partisanship against common cause and national interest.

Father in heaven, guide Thy servants through discussion, debate, and confrontation to the adequate solutions so desperately needed. In Jesus' name. Amen.

THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 1981

GRACIOUS LOVING GOD, in the extraordinary, exclusive environment which is the Senate of the United States, protect those who labor here from the seductive, corrupting influence of power and prestige. Deliver them from the delusion of self-importance which their position so subtly nurtures. Remind them of the example of the greatest Man who ever lived who taught that "He that would be greatest must be the servant of all."

In disagreement and confrontation help them to respect and love each other as they struggle together for resolution of complex issues. Help them never to take for granted the many who serve them faithfully day after day. As they face a weekend away from legislation, grant them some relaxed and precious hours with their families to strengthen and deepen relationships with spouse and children.

Father, God, who art love, make genuine love, which is the fulfilling of the law, the dominant force in our lives. In the name of Him who in love laid down His life for us all. Amen.

FRIDAY, JUNE 19, 1981

May we spend just a moment in silent prayer for Mr. Robert B. Dove, the Parliamentarian, and his family.

FATHER GOD, we have no secrets from Thee. Thou knowest our minds and hearts, our desires and aspirations and ambitions. Thou knowest those who are hurting today: the one who is discouraged; the one who feels like a failure and wants to quit; the one who is fearful and filled with self-doubt. Thou knowest the one with financial difficulty; the one who can find no relief from guilt; the one whose marriage is falling apart, whose children are on drugs or alcohol or alienated. Thou knowest those who are ill or whose loved ones are suffering.

Gracious Father, I pray that Thy Holy Spirit will minister to every hidden need in this large Senate family. Touch each life with love and healing and peace. In the name of the Great Physician. Amen.

MONDAY, JUNE 22, 1981

ALMIGHTY GOD, Thou art the Sovereign Lord of the universe. The planets in their courses obey Thee. Our spaceship Earth rotates and revolves according to Thy prescribed plan. Our most sophisticated space science is totally dependent upon Thine universal order.

Thou art the Sovereign Lord of history. The millennia, the centuries, the decades, the years, and the hours unfold according to Thy plan.

History's events, good or evil, serve Thy purpose.

We know that in everything God works for good with those who love him, who are called according to his purpose.—Romans 8: 28 (RSV).

Thou art the Sovereign Lord of the nations. Empires rise and fall according to Thine economy. But Thou dost not work in a vacuum, Thou dost Thy work through people who seek, Thy will. Help all in authority in this Nation to realize that Thy wisdom, Thy power are available to those who seek

Thee. The problems we face are not too big for Thee. Nothing is too hard for Thee. Nothing is impossible to Thee. Thou dost hold the whole world in Thy hand.

Gracious God, give to the Senators and those who labor with them Thy wisdom and Thy power for this day. Let Thy will be done in this place as it is in heaven. In Jesus' name. Amen.

TUESDAY, JUNE 23, 1981

GOD OF CREATION, we praise Thee for Thy wisdom in giving the power of reproduction to opposites. Out of male-female union comes human life; out of positive and negative poles come light and power. We so easily disregard this principle in the realm of ideas. We reduce issues to either-or, assuming that when there is disagreement, one is right, the other wrong; and we forfeit the truth that may emerge from conflicting ideas.

We thank Thee for the creative dynamics of opposition, that when two disagree, both may be right, or both wrong. Help us to appreciate the possibility that there are three sides to a question: My side, the other's side, and the right side. In disagreement grant us the humility and patience to seek together the right.

God of light and wisdom and truth, help us to understand that diversity is the essence of unity. Different notes produce harmony; different colors produce a picture; different shapes produce symmetry. Give patience to Thy servants of the public that out of their struggle may come light and wisdom and truth. In the name of Him who is the light of the world and Truth Incarnate. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24, 1981

MIGHTY GOD: The Earth is yours and nations are your people. Take away our pride and bring to mind your goodness, so that, living together in this land, we may enjoy your gifts and be thankful.

For clouded mountains, fields and woodland; for shoreline and running streams; for all that makes our Nation good and lovely; we thank Thee God.

For farms and villages where food is gathered to feed our people; for cities where people talk and work together in factories, shops, or schools to shape those things we need for living; we thank Thee God.

For explorers, planners, statesmen; for prophets who speak out, and for silent faithful people; for all who love our land and guard freedom; for vision to see your purpose hidden in our Nation's history, and courage to seek it in brother-love exchange; we thank Thee God.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 1981

OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN, Lord of heaven and Earth, Ruler of all nature, whose love and grace are free to all, manifest Thy holy presence in these Chambers and all the Senate offices today. Restrain emotions that are at the breaking point. Give patience to those who are restless and anxious.

Help those who are frustrated because things are not going their way. Dissolve anger and bitterness, replace them with love and forgiveness. Deliver us from triumphalism that turns diversity into divisiveness, adversaries into enemies. Remind us that we exist for the common good and that unity is fundamental to that, that when unity is destroyed everybody loses.

Dear God, strengthen the Senators and their associates against pressures from without and within. Guide them to decisions that will reflect the glory of God and the blessings of all peoples. In the name of Him who came not to condemn but to love and save. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 1981

ALMIGHTY GOD, Lord of all the Earth, may the celebration of our Nation's birth not have been perfunctory and easily forgotten. We were reminded of our roots: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights . . ." Teach us to take seriously our spiritual roots, for without a Creator-God there are no inalienable rights, and to refuse Thee is to forfeit our rights. Forgive us, O God, for wanting the benefits while we reject the Benefactor.

We were reminded that to preserve these rights governments are instituted with the consent of the governed. May we never forget that the Government of this Nation is "of the people, by the people and for the people" and that our Government exists to perpetuate their rights.

Give to the Senators and all associated with them in legislation a fresh commitment to the vision and the passion of those who founded this Nation and to the God who made it possible.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

FRIDAY, JULY 10, 1981

GRACIOUS GOD, Father of us all, whose love and compassion are impartial and universal; we pray for the peace and unity of our Nation's people. We recall the joyful proclamation of the Christmas event, "Peace on Earth, good will among men." We know that peace and good will are inseparable. As Thy servants in the Senate struggle for truth and justice guard their wills toward one another from the poison of rancor and malice. In tough confrontation, let there be light and not heat. Deliver from contentious spirits which alienate and reduce worthy opponents to bitter enemies.

Thy word declares that love is the fulfilling of the law; that to love one's neighbor is next in importance to loving Thee. Give us the grace to discern between the godly power of love and the demonic potency of hate. Dear God, help us to love each other.

We pray in the name of the most influential man in history who triumphed over every foe by love. Amen.

MONDAY, JULY 13, 1981

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY, LORD GOD ALMIGHTY, which was, and is, and is to come. Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: For Thou hast created all things, and for Thy pleasure they were and are created.

We give thanks to Thee, O Lord God Almighty, for the weekend recess. We thank Thee for time with our families and friends. We thank Thee for rest and relaxation. We thank Thee for the opportunity to visit with some of the people, to hear their concerns, their cares, and their desires.

Now we thank Thee for the prospect of continuing the work to which we have been called as public servants. We thank Thee for those who labor with us in the Senate, in the cloakrooms, in our offices, and on the Hill. Help us never to take for granted their faithful service and to be responsive to their needs. Help us, dear God, to love and serve one another.

In the name of Him who was the servant of servants. Amen.

TUESDAY, JULY 14, 1981

O GOD: Your justice is like rock, and Your mercy like pure flowing water. Judge and forgive us. If we have turned from You, return us to Your way; for without You we are lost people.

From brassy patriotism and blind trust in power; deliver us, O God. From public deception that weakens trust; from self-seeking in high political places; deliver us, O God. From divisions among us of class or race; from wealth that will not share, and poverty that feeds on bitterness; deliver us, O God. From neglecting rights, from overlooking the hurt, the imprisoned, and the needy among us; deliver us, O God. From lack of concern for other lands and peoples; from narrowness of national purpose; from failure to welcome the peace You promise on Earth; deliver us, O God.

We pray this in the name of Him who received all who came to Him, who responded with compassion to whatever need they suffered, who gave His life as a sacrifice of love for all. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 1981

OUR HEAVENLY FATHER to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, Thou knowest our thoughts, our ambitions, our aspirations. We have no secrets from Thee. Thou knowest the burdens borne by the Members of the Senate. Thou knowest the responsibilities which lie heavily upon them. Thou knowest the pressures of special interests which will use any device to deceive and seduce men and women of honor and integrity.

Strengthen the resolve of these, Thy servants. Protect them against temptations without and within. Give them wisdom and courage to stand firm for that in which they believe.

When their convictions are contrary to those of their colleagues, help them to respect the opposition. Let this Chamber and their offices be filled with love and good will. And as they struggle for what they believe to be right, support them by Thy grace, and out of struggle bring truth and justice.

We ask this in the name of Him who was incarnate righteousness. Amen.

THURSDAY, JULY 16, 1981

ALMIGHTY GOD, *from whom, through whom, and to whom are all things* (Rom. 11: 36) who *giveth to all life and breath and all things.* (Acts 17: 25) forgive our idolatrous presumption in attributing to ourselves the credit for all that is good in our land. Grant us the grace of humility which recognizes the blessing of a gracious providence without which we could not survive.

Forgive us for the exorbitant pride we tend to take when we equate our own convictions with God's truth, when we universalize our experience and require of others what Thou dost demand of us. Keep us from making a principle of our experience. Help us to allow God to be as original with others as He is with us.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

FRIDAY, JULY 17, 1981

Let us observe a moment of silence, remembering Senator Domenici and his loved ones in the loss of his mother.

FATHER IN HEAVEN, it is so easy to allow Government affairs to dominate our thinking to the exclusion of our families. In our commitment to our public duty, protect us from abdicating our responsibilities to spouses and children. Save us, Lord, from the possibility of sacrificing loved ones on the altar of public service. Keep us from using work on the Hill as justification for neglect in the home. In perspective, our Father, we know that nothing is more precious than spouse and children; and if we fail as husbands and wives and parents, no success elsewhere can compensate.

Grant, O God, that we shall not allow our jobs to alienate our affection from those whose right to us exceeds all others. We ask this in the name of Him who laid down His life for His bride, the church. Amen.

SATURDAY, JULY 18, 1981

LOVING FATHER, strong men and women learn easily how to conceal their feelings, their hurts, their tragedies. So often behind a smiling face there is a broken heart. Help us to be sensitive toward one another in the daily routine that brings us so close together physically, so far apart personally. Grant us the grace to be patient and compassionate in all our contacts, to treat each other with care and respect, so that even when we are unaware of another's need we may comfort and bless.

As Your word commands, help us to be to each other at all times, thoughtful and forbearing, "in honor preferring one another." Dear God, we pray for all who have hidden needs in this large Senate family. Let there be reconciliation where husbands and wives are estranged, patience and love where youth are rebellious, healing where there is illness, strength for weakness, hope for discouragement, relief there is financial difficulty, comfort for those whose friend or loved one suffers critical illness.

God of all comfort, let love bind us together so that no one suffers alone unattended and ignored. In Jesus' name. Amen.

MONDAY, JULY 20, 1981

I will extol Thee, my God, O King; and I will bless Thy name for ever and ever. Everyday will I bless Thee; and I will praise Thy name for ever and ever.

Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; and His greatness is unsearchable. One generation shall praise Thy works to another, and shall speak of Thy mighty acts. I will speak of the glorious honour of Thy majesty, and of Thy wondrous works.

And men shall speak of the might of Thy terrible acts; and I will declare Thy greatness. They shall abundantly utter the memory of Thy great goodness, and shall sing of Thy righteousness.

The Lord is gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger and of great mercy. The Lord is good to all; and His tender mercies are over all His works.—Psalm 145: 1-9.

SOVEREIGN GOD OF THE NATIONS, be with the President of the United States and the heads of state who meet in the economic summit in Canada. May they seek Thy will to do it, for the sake of all peoples.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 22, 1981

LOVING FATHER IN HEAVEN, we regret that so often it takes a tragedy to draw us together and make us aware of each other. How often we have been indifferent to someone, have failed to express to him our appreciation, respect and affection, then tragedy overtakes and we remember with regret our negligence.

Forgive us for taking each other for granted, for failing to show honor, gratitude and love. Dear God, do not let us wait until someone dies to appreciate him, do not allow us to have to lose privilege to appreciate it. Keep us from treating people in ways we will regret if they are taken away from us; help us to treat others in ways we will wish we had. We pray this in the name of Him who loved to His death even those who opposed Him. Amen.

THURSDAY, JULY 23, 1981

GRACIOUS HEAVENLY FATHER, often when we need Thee most, we find it hardest to come to Thee. Sometimes we do not come because we are impressed with our strength and do not feel any need. Sometimes we do not come because we have failed or sinned and refuse to admit our need. Either way it is pride which deprives us of Thy favor. Forgive us, Lord, for finding it so difficult to understand the meaning of grace, that grace means the unmerited favor of God.

Help us see that the one condition grace requires is admission of need; that it is our weakness which qualifies us for Thy strength; that it is our lack of wisdom which qualifies us for Thy light and truth; that it is our failure and sin which qualifies us for Thy love, forgiveness, and renewal.

Loving God, we have no secrets from Thee. Thou knowest us far better than ourselves. Help us to humble ourselves before Thee and find in Thy grace a very present help in time of trouble. Touch every person in the Senate with grace and love and healing. Forgive and restore wherever there is need in heart and office and home. We ask this in the name of Him who never failed to supply every need brought to Him. Amen.

FRIDAY, JULY 24, 1981

O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His steadfast love endures forever.—Psalm 118: 1 (RSV).

WE THANK THEE, LORD, for the physical, mental, and emotional energy which made it possible for the Senate to engage in the intensity demanding work of this past week. We thank Thee for the unity of the Senate despite the great differences emerging in debate and negotiation. We thank Thee for the good will of honorable men and women who are committed to the good of all people and pursue it relentlessly. We thank Thee for wise and patient leadership who guide their parties to just and equitable decisions. We thank Thee for the tireless labors of dedicated office and Senate staffs who give indispensible support to the legislative process.

Gracious Father, help all who have worked so hard this week to give attention to their personal health and family relationships. Though responsibility remains heavily upon them, may they make time to relax and rest and give themselves to their spouses and children. In Jesus's name. Amen.

MONDAY, JULY 27, 1981

In the words of the psalmist:

Blessed be the name of the Lord from this time forth and forevermore! From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the Lord is to be praised! The Lord is high above all nations, and His glory above the heavens!—Psalm 113: 2–4.

WE THANK THEE LORD for the opportunities for worship, relaxation, rest and family time for the weekend. We thank Thee for the prospects for service to the people and to each other this week. Grant that our hearts and these Halls shall reflect Thy love and glory this week. Help us to remember the poor, the elderly, the oppressed, and all who are disadvantaged in our deliberations. So guide us that the decisions made this week will conform to Thy truth, justice, equity, and compassion.

For Jesus's sake. Amen.

TUESDAY, JULY 28, 1981

Let us pray in the profound and familiar words of St. Francis of Assisi.

"LORD, make me an instrument of Thy peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy.

"O Divine Master, grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love; for it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life." Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 29, 1981

FATHER IN HEAVEN, we come to the middle of a very busy, heavy week of work under the relentless march of time. Thank Thee for the beautiful spirit of cooperation and unity despite the pressure. I pray for the Senators, their staffs and all who labor so tirelessly here. Minds are weary, emotions strained, nerves frayed, bodies tired; and important decisions must be made which affect significantly the lives of millions.

Gracious God, make Your presence felt here today. Infuse us with Your wisdom, Your love, Your peace. Relieve anxiety, frustration, and tension and help the Senators finish their task on schedule. In the name of Him who said, "Come unto me all ye who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Amen.

THURSDAY, JULY 30, 1981

HOLY GOD, PATIENT, CARING, FORGIVING FATHER, we thank Thee for Thine unconditional, impartial love. Help us to understand that Thou dost love us with perfect love and that we can do nothing to make Thee love us more; we can do nothing to make Thee love us less, for Thy love is unchanging, irrevocable, and eternal.

We thank Thee for Thy grace, for the unmerited favor by which Thou dost bid us receive Thy love. We allow guilt to corrode our souls when it is so unnecessary. Thou hast promised to—

Blot out our transgressions like a cloud and our sins like mist.—Isaiah 44: 22.

Thou hast said:

If we confess our sins, Thou art faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.—I John 1:9.

Dear God, help us in humility to confess to Thee and receive Thy forgiveness. Then help us to forgive ourselves and especially to forgive others as Thou hast forgiven us. We ask this in the name of Him who gave His life for sinners. Amen.

FRIDAY, JULY 31, 1981

FATHER GOD, who *setteth the solitary in families.*—Psalms 68: 6—we pray for our families who are often the casualties of the demands of public life. We pray for wives who must often suspend plans indefinitely and simply wait for a word from busy husbands. Help them, when despite their willingness to accept the situation, they experience disappointment and resentment. We pray for children who are unable to understand a father's frequent absence, who have not learned to appreciate the significance of his position, do not think of him as an important leader but simply as an absent parent, feel neglected and sometimes rebellious.

Grant to the good and faithful men and women who work here sensitivity to their loved ones and wisdom and grace to fulfill their private obligations as well as their public duties.

For Jesus' sake. Amen.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 1, 1981

O Lord, You have examined my heart and know everything about me. You know when I sit or stand. When far away you know my every thought. You chart the path ahead of me, and tell me where to stop and rest. Every moment, you know where I am. You know what I am going to say before I even say it. You both precede and follow me, and place Your hand of blessing on my head.

This is too glorious, too wonderful to believe. I can never be lost to your spirit. I can never get away from my God.—Psalm 139: 1–7, The Living Bible.

GRACIOUS, LOVING GOD, Thou knowest the condition of each of us: The weariness of body and mind, the impatience felt, the anger and frustration, the hurt. Lord, let these working men and women feel Thy presence, Thy love, Thy peace, Thy strength, and wisdom. Let them know that Thou dost care, that Thou canst really meet them here and now; and that whatever their needs. Thou hast infinite resources with which to meet them.

Dear Lord, let Thy blessing flow like a river, bathing hearts and minds with wave after wave of Thy peace and power. Transform these historic surroundings, these evening hours, these dedicated men and women with Thy gracious providence.

In Thy name, we pray. Amen.

MONDAY, AUGUST 3, 1981

FATHER IN HEAVEN, we pray that Thou will overrule in the air controllers' strike and help those inconvenienced by it, especially those whose travel is critical.

We commend to Thee the Boschwitz family, son Ken, as he enters the hospital for surgery today.

Gracious God, our Father, as Thou didst rest from Thy work, so hast Thou ordained rest for Thy people. As we near the close of these stressful weeks, we thank Thee for the prospect of the August recess. Grant special grace to this body that it may resolve the issues before it; and help these public servants to take seriously the divine mandate for rest.

May this recess be preeminently a time for family, for healing, renewing and deepening relationships. Grant discernment as to the apportionment of time and work so that Thy servants may give attention to their loved ones and to their health.

Be with those who are required to stay on the job here. Help them to make time for relaxation, recreation, and rest.

May this recess be a time of physical and emotional rehabilitation. We pray this, not selfishly, but that we may be maximized in our continued effectiveness in public life.

We pray this in the name of Him whose life as a servant was unhurried, the epitome of peace and poise and power. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1981

GRACIOUS HEAVENLY FATHER, it is good to be together again. We have missed each other and the separation from friends and peers has generated good memories. We have found ourselves being thankful, even for those who opposed us in the pressure-packed 2 weeks before recess. We realize we need each other and as long as we serve together in the Senate we must be models of the unity the country longs for.

We accept our differences as fundamental to that unit. We are unspeakably grateful for the unique mixture that distinguishes America—for the diversity which binds us together in the rich tapestry of our national life.

We thank Thee for the opportunities we have and during recess for family fun and fellowship, for relaxation and rest, for fruitful contacts with the people we serve. Now as we begin the hard work of implementing past decision, grant patience, endurance, energy, and wisdom. Help us to grow in our respect and love for one another and for all who compose this large Senate family. In the name of Him who is Brother to all who love God. Amen.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1981

Praise the Lord!
Praise the Lord, O my soul!
I will praise the Lord as long as I live;
I will sing praises to my God while I have being.

Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no help.
When his breath departs he returns to his Earth; on that very day his plans perish.

Happy is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord his God,
Who made Heaven and Earth, the sea, and all that is in them;
Who keeps faith forever; who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry.

The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.
The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous.
The Lord watches over the sojourners, He upholds the window and the fatherless; but the way of the wicked He brings to ruin.

The Lord will reign forever, thy God, O Zion, to all generations.
Praise the Lord!—Psalm 146 (RSV).

Amen.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1981

ALMIGHTY GOD, Sovereign Lord of history, Judge of all the Earth, we acknowledge our need of Thee. Thy Word declares that *there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.*—Romans 13: 1. All who rule do so at Thy good pleasure. All governments are accountable to Thee.

May we remember that Thou art the judge of all that is done here today; that we are accountable to Thee in our thoughts, our desires, our words, and our actions. We are accountable to Thee in our public life and in our private life.

Gracious God, help us to dispose of our duties in our homes and in all that we do that Thou will be honored and the Nation blessed.

We ask this in the name of Him who loved to His death all the peoples of the Earth. Amen.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1981

ALMIGHTY GOD, gracious Father of us all, Thou hast guided the leadership of this Nation through troubled waters in the past. In the words of the first President of the United States:

No people can be bound to acknowledge and adore the Invisible Hand which conducts the affairs of men more than those of the United States. Every step by which they have advanced to the character of an independent nation seems to have been distinguished by some token of providential agency . . . .

We come to Thee O God, in an hour of great need. The Senate faces a superhuman task against a stubborn economy that refuses to yield to every effort to check its destructive course, and which seems bound to crush all the hopes and aspirations of the people. Thou alone, O Lord, hast the wisdom and the power needed at this critical hour.

Grant to Thy servants in the Senate, gracious Father, Thy wisdom and energy, that they may be adequate to the challenge of what seems an impossible situation. Assure them of Thy presence, love, and grace in their labors. We pray this in the name of Him in whom is all power in heaven and on Earth. Amen.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1981

OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN, Thou hast given us another day in which to serve Thee. We thank Thee for the rest of the night, for brief but precious time with our families. We thank Thee for strong bodies and alert minds, for eyes to see and ears to hear and hearts to love. We thank Thee for comfortable homes, for more than enough to eat, for good friends and faithful associates. We thank Thee for the pleasure of laboring in this place of extraordinary privilege and position.

Grant us wisdom and strength for this day that we may dispose of our responsibilities in ways that honor Thee. Help us in all our relationships to be constructive and edifying. Keep us from attitudes which demean others and are socially destructive. Help us find joy in our work despite pressure and opposition.

May Thy glory fill this place, Thy love be shed abroad in our hearts, and Thy will be done for the Nation. In Jesus' name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1981

LOVING GOD, our Father, who giveth life and breath to all, whose goodness never fails, whose steadfast love never ceases, whose mercies are new every morning; we pray for the people of our land. We pray for those who are hurting; for the homeless, the hungry, the voiceless, the unemployed, the oppressed. Look upon them in Thy mercy and cause those who can and should to respond to the need.

We pray for the healthy, the strong, the prosperous, that they may be sensitive to those who suffer and in gratitude for Thy gracious providence be willing to share with them the good with which they have been so lavishly endowed. Grant, O God, that those who are fortunate may understand that their good fortune imposes, upon them a godly responsibility to be compassionate and selfless with the unfortunate. Help them to distinguish between need and greed, to realize we were meant to be channels rather than reservoirs, that good things were meant to be used, not collected. We pray this in the name of Him who never turned away a needy one who came to Him. Amen.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1981

FATHER IN HEAVEN, I pray this morning for all who work in the Senate and their families. Our culture teaches us never to wear our feelings on our sleeves. We accept this as good and proper, but carried to the extreme it causes us to wear masks, to pretend everything is OK when the truth is we feel lousy and things are falling apart. In so doing we deprive ourselves of the caring love that friends and colleagues are most willing to give in an hour of need. Forgive us for thinking we have to be strong all the time, for fearing vulnerability.

Thou knowest those among us who are hurting: Personal health, trouble with children, financial burden, unkind and unfounded publicity, alienation from spouse, rejection by friends, thoughtless criticism from constituents, discouragement, disappointment, a nagging sense of failure. Gracious God, we pray for Thy loving, healing touch on each life, each family, each office.

And Lord, help us to defer to each other, to respect and love each other, so that by attitude and action we minister to each others need even when not aware of it. Help us we pray in the name of Him whose love and care for His people has never ceased from Abraham to this present moment. Amen.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1981

Praise the Lord, all nations! Extol Him all peoples! For great is His steadfast love toward us; and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. Praise the Lord.—Psalm 117.

O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His steadfast love endures forever!—Psalm 118: 1.

WE THANK THEE O GOD for Thy gracious providence in our lives. We thank Thee for our families, for our homes, our neighbors, and friends. We thank Thee for the high privilege of working in the Senate, for the faithful service of those who enable the Senators to fulfill their awesome responsibilities to the people.

Help us dear God never to take these privileges for granted or to presume upon the dedicated support of the staffs. Protect us against the seductive influences of privilege, position, prestige and power. Keep us mindful of our frailties, our need for each other, and especially our need for the loving support of spouses and children.

Guide us through this week that our labors may be productive of justice, equity and peace. Let our actions contribute to the general welfare and our lives demonstrate qualities of leadership which inspire confidence and trust. For Thy glory and the benefit of all, we pray. Amen.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1981

SOVEREIGN LORD OF HISTORY AND THE NATIONS, we are humbled before Thee as we contemplate the awesome duty of government in the light of history and the present situation. We remember the dedication, the sacrifice of those who have gone before. We recall the humble dependence upon Thee that is expressed in our founding documents. We are mindful of the values and priorities inherited from the Judeo-Christian tradition of our fathers. Forgive us God when we ignore or demean or violate the spiritual roots which launched this incredible Nation.

We praise and thank Thee for the incalculable resources of our land: Its mountains and plains, its lakes and rivers and streams, its vast forests and fertile soil, its industry and inventiveness, its rich mixture of people of every nation and race and language and culture and creed—a microcosm of the world.

As many nations look to the United States as the central stronghold of justice and freedom, help us to repent of our pride, sin, and failure; help us to be faithful to the mandate of our legacy—to what Senator Dirksen called our "divine rendez-vous." Help us to see what is right and best for all peoples and to do Thy will on Earth as it is in Heaven. In Jesus' name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1981

Blessed God who art all powerful, we humans find it very difficult to exercise power without being corrupted by it. Sometimes O Lord, those of us who have little power with little prestige are most impressed with ourselves and flaunt our petty position. Give us the wisdom of all people to take ourselves least seriously.

In this unique body, which wields such enormous power, protect us from its seductive, destructive influence. Inoculate us against the virile infection of self-importance. As we drink the heady wine of power, may we humble ourselves in the presence of the One in whom dwells all power and authority, remembering that those who rule do so at His pleasure.

May we realize that the mark of human insubordination is to lord it over others and the mark of greatness is to be everybody's servant. Temper our awareness of privilege in this place with humility and love toward each other and especially toward our spouses and children. We pray this in the name of Him who was servant of all. Amen.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1981

Almighty God who art just and merciful in all Thy ways, on this significant day in our national life, we pray for the Supreme Court and especially for the new Associate Justice. May they be strengthened in their awesome responsibility. Preserve them against all that would defame or impugn their high office. In recognition of their sacred trust, help us never to fail to pray for them.

With profound gratitude we contemplate the extraordinary vision and wisdom with which our founders composed the Constitution providing a form of government unprecedented in history. We are amazed when we realize the strength, versatility, and flexibility of a system conceived two centuries ago which endures so effectively to this day despite the magnitude of change.

As righteousness and justice are the foundation of Thy throne.—Psalm 89: 14.

Grant to every branch of government the will and the wisdom to be faithful to the legacy left us by the fathers of this Republic. Let not Isaiah's words be true of us:

No one enters suit justly, no one goes to law honestly; they rely on empty pleas, they speak lies . . . Justice is turned back, and righteousness stands afar.—Isaiah 59: 4, 14 (RSV).

Thou has shown us what is good, what Thou dost require of us:

To do justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with our God.—Micah 6: 8.

Help us O Lord, to obey. Amen.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1981

Blessed be the name of the Lord from this time forth and forever more!

From the rising of the sun to its setting the name of the Lord is to be praised!

The Lord is high above all nations, and His glory above the heavens.—Psalm 113: 2–4 (RSV).

ETERNAL FATHER, the Senators face a very difficult 3 days. Convictions are deep, feelings are strong and people are restless and apprehensive. Give to Thy servants, the Senators, great wisdom as they strive to reconcile differences, to be responsive to the prolific and profound demands confronting them.

In disagreement, help them to listen to each other, to honor each other, and to love each other. Help them to be patient as the process of compromise and conciliation unfolds. Above all, O Lord, put in their hearts a passion for truth and justice and the refusal to settle for anything less. Lead them in Thy will and way to the benefit of the greatest number. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1981

GOD OF ABRAHAM, ISAAC, AND JACOB, of whom Isaiah declared:

The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the Earth. He does not faint or grow weary, his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might He increases strength.—Isaiah 40: 28, 29 (RSV).

Great God of the prophets, we need Thee. Make Thyself known in glory and power. Forgive our futile ways. Deliver us from petty panaceas, from instant cures, from preoccupation with symptoms while the disease rages. Anoint us by Thy spirit that we may be men and women to match the monumental issues that face us in this crisis hour. Let the mighty wind of God blow through this place with purifying, renewing power. Breathe creativity into the minds and hearts of Thy servants.

We do not pray for easier tasks but for greater strength. We do not pray for more time but for the wisest use of the time we have. We do not pray for simple solutions but for innovative genius for this powerful body upon whom depends the welfare and destiny of this and many other nations.

Mighty God who emancipated Thine ancient people from bondage, who opened for them the Red Sea, who kept them in the wilderness with bread from heaven and water from a rock; manifest Thy sovereign greatness in this hour to Thy glory. Amen.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1981

Father of mercies and God of all comfort.—II Corinthians 1: 3 (RSV).

Who setteth the solitary in families.—Psalm 68: 6 (RSV).

WE PRAY for the strengthening of our homes. The intensity of these past days inevitably impacts our families and homes. We pray for spouses and children who at great cost release their loved ones to public service. Grant that they may be sensitive to the enormous physical and emotional burden days like these impose on those who labor here. Help them to be patient and tranquil in mind and heart when they feel abandoned, when demands on the Hill rob them of time and attentions they have a right to expect.

Help the Senators to be patient when they feel misunderstood by loved ones and to be sensitive to their needs. Enable them to give to family and home the priority God commands. Give them special grace to give loving and affectionate reassurance so desperately needed in times of loneliness which is often confused with rejection. As no nation or culture can long survive disintegration of its families, endow Thy servants with the desire to give leadership in this respect as models of family fidelity.

Gracious God, bring healing and renewal to our families which compose the greatest wealth our land enjoys. Embrace them with Thy reconciling love and cover them with joy and peace. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1981

Let us spend a moment in silent prayer for Scott Schulz and his father and family. Scott, a member of Senator Percy's staff, was killed in a plane crash last night.

GRACIOUS GOD OF ISHMAEL AND HIS DESCENDANTS, our hearts are heavy because of the death of President Sadat. We sorrow for this great loss to his family, his nation, Egypt, the Middle East, to us, and the world. We commend to Thy love and peace his wife and family. Cover them with Thy gracious comfort in their hour of profound grief. We pray for his compatriots, the Vice President and all in authority in Egypt. We pray for all who bear rule in the Middle East. Vouchsafe to them patience and wisdom in this sensitive hour of international relations.

We pray for our President and Vice President, for the Secretary of State, Members of the Senate and all who bear the burden of government in our land. Quicken our awareness of the historical significance of all the events which take place in that part of the world where human history began and where Holy Scripture teaches it will end. Help our leaders to view the implications of this trying hour in the womb and grave of human affairs, in the light of biblical truth.

Lord of history, may we seek Thy face to do Thy will and fulfill Thy sovereign purpose for our time and for all peoples. May we continue to seek and find the peace for which President Sadat lived and died. We ask this in the name of th Prince of Peace. Amen.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1981

Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God.—Matthew 5: 9.

LORD GOD OF THE NATIONS, teach us to take peace seriously, to do more than talk about it. Teach us to be makers of peace; to realize that peace begins at home; that we will not have peace anywhere if we do not seek it and make it where we are. Make us to see that the seed of alienation between spouses or generations or races or political parties is the same seed that generate war among nations.

Help us to make peace with our spouses and children, with our staffs, with our peers and our colleagues. Help us to make the Senate a model of the peace for which the word so desperately languishes. Sensitize our conscience to bear the voice of the Holy Spirit and grant us grace to obey when He speaks. Teach us to abhor all that is contrary to Thy justice, righteousness and peace.

Forgive us Lord for peaceful talk and warlike attitudes. In our quest for the best for all peoples let us not forget our need for divine guidance personally and corporately. Deliver us from the human pride that fails or refuse to acknowledge the rule of God without which our Nation would never have been born. In memory of the vision and faith of our fathers and in dependence upon Thee which was so fundamental in them grant us the grace and courage to fulfill the destiny which

Thou hast purposed for us in our time and for all the future. Hasten the day when we shall—

Beat our swords into plowshares and our spears into pruning hooks; when nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.—Isaiah 2: 4.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1981

FATHER IN HEAVEN, we awakened this morning in pleasant surroundings, arose from warm, comfortable beds, enjoyed the refreshment from plentiful clean water and soap. We ate more than adequate breakfasts and, through this day, will probably consume more food than necessary. We labor in ideal surroundings midst peers and associates who make our work pleasant and constructive.

Meanwhile, there are vast multitudes who never know the luxury of a full stomach from the cradle to the grave. Thousands will die of starvation today. Millions of refugees languish in crude, dirty, unhealthy situations without fresh water or food enough, ravaged by sickness and disease with little or no medical supplies and assistance. In our federal city, within sight of this beautiful building, there are many who suffer the same indignities and inadequacies. Dehumanized by oppressive forces, unable to find employment, they subsist in deprivation and hopelessness.

Almighty God, make this distinguished, powerful body the advocate for all who suffer. Teach us that justice is more than a legal system, that it has to do with compassionate response to the homeless and the hungry, the oppressed and deprived. Forgive us for indifference to the poor and the persecuted and forgive us, Father, for the easy way we presume upon our blessings, taking them for granted, forgetting to be thankful toward Thee and compassionate toward the needy.

Help us to be channels of caring and sharing, not reservoirs of greed. We pray this in the name of God whose justice demands it. Amen.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1981

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY, LORD GOD ALMIGHTY. Heaven and Earth are full of Thee. Heaven and Earth are praising Thee, O Lord, most high.

Almighty God, in whom is all righteousness, Thy word declares:

Righteousness exalts a nation but sin is a reproach to any people.—Proverbs 14: 34.

History confirms that empires disintegrate in unrighteousness. We need a rebirth of righteousness, but we cannot expect it of the people if it is not true of public servants whom they elect to leadership. Let righteousness begin with us.

Enable us to turn from every thought and word and deed that violates righteousness. Help us to desire holiness and eschew evil. Help us to manifest righteousness in our private lives, our family lives, and our public lives.

Let integrity be the hallmark of our characters, individually and corporately. In the name of the Son of righteousness, we pray. Amen.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1981

Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain who build it.—Psalm 127: 1.

SOVEREIGN LORD OF HISTORY, with those words, Benjamin Franklin called the members of the Constitutional Convention to prayer when they were hopelessly divided. "We indeed seem to feel our own want of political wisdom," he said; we are "groping in the dark to find political truth." Father of Light, as Thou didst grant political wisdom to our forebears to establish this unprecedented union of States, so grant to the Senators and their staffs in this present critical hour, wisdom which transcends their human best as they address imponderable issues.

Gracious God, this Nation was conceived in the minds and hearts of appointed leaders who acknowledged their need of

Thee. May the leaders of today humble themselves before Thee, admit their need and submit to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. In the name of Him who is "the Way, the Truth and the Life." Amen.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1981

Let us unite in silent prayer for the President as he meets in the summit conference in Mexico, for Senator Talmadge on the loss of his mother, and for the family of Senator Chiles whose grandson was born prematurely at 26 weeks.

HEAVENLY FATHER, whose love is unconditional, impartial and everlasting, I pray for the beloved men and women who constitute our large Senate family. May Thy blessing rest upon them and their loved ones. Thou knowest those who are hurting. Where there is estrangement between husband and wife bring reconciliation. Where parents and children are alienated bring forgiveness. Where there is illness bring healing. Help those facing difficulty with finances. Where there is disappointment, discouragement or despair, give hope. Where there is tragedy, comfort. For those who are ready to give up because they see no meaning or purpose bring reassurance. Renew weary minds, hearts, and bodies.

Gracious God, thank Thee for all the faithful people who make the business of the Senate function. Thank Thee for those who work in the Senate offices in this building or on the grounds. Encourage them in the knowledge that each is important to the effective operation of government. Help us to appreciate each other, to serve each other, to love each other. In the name of Him Who lived to serve. Amen.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1981

O Praise the Lord, all ye nations;
Praise Him, all ye people.
For His merciful kindness is great toward us;

And the truth of the Lord endureth forever.

Praise ye, the Lord.—Psalm 117.

It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto Thy name, O Most High;

To declare Thy loving kindness in the morning, and Thy faithfulness every night.—Psalm 92: 1, 2.

WE THANK THEE, LORD for the refreshing of the weekend, for the privilege of worship, for the opportunity to be with our families, for rest, recreation, and renewal.

We thank Thee for health and strength to do the work to which we have been called and we pray we may do it according to Thy will and for Thy glory. In Jesus' name. Amen.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1981

SOVEREIGN LORD OF HISTORY, God of all nations and peoples, as good and faithful men and women search and struggle for the path of righteousness, justice, and peace, grant to Thy servants light for the way and strength for the day. Defend them against any deterrent to responsible statesmanship, any compromise that sacrifices principle or violates conscience, any action that would endanger the Republic.

Grant to each grace and wisdom to measure personal conviction in the light of truth and courage, to act consistent with enlightened conscience, however costly to personal ambition.

In disagreement, grant attention to and respect for opposing views, and willingness to be flexible when the good of the people and the rightness of the issues become clear. In the name of Him who is Truth Incarnate and the Light of the world. Amen.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1981

GRACIOUS HEAVENLY FATHER, Thou didst say to Thy servant, the prophet Samuel:

The Lord sees not as man sees; man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.—I Samuel 16: 7 (RSV).

We are so easily self-deceived because we judge by outward appearance. Help us to see O God, that Thy judgments are based on that which is within us.

We forget that we do not impress Thee with our own deeds, however good and right they may seem to us, for Thou dost see what is in our hearts. Thou dost see not so much what we do as why we do it. Forgive us Lord for so often doing the right thing for the wrong reason, thus trying to be men-pleasers while ignoring our accountability to Thee.

And forgive us for jusifying our actions by giving reasons which are not true when inwardly we were motivated in ways we know are wrong. Help us to remember that we live our lives in the penetrating light of Thy truth and when all is said and done, we are accountable to Thee, not only for our works, but for our concealed motivation. In the name of Him who is incarnate truth. Amen.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1981

ALMIGHTY GOD OF GRACE AND MERCY, LOVE AND FORGIVENESS, we need a special dispensation from Thee and our problem is compounded if we are unaware of our need. This has been a heavy, difficult week, full of tension and pressure, in which the eyes of the Nation and the world were fixed on the Senate. Feelings have run deep and disagreement has been wide; some have experienced profound disappointment while others were exhilarated; but we are one in allegiance and purpose. We thank Thee for the diversity that distinguishes us and for the transcendent reality that unites us.

Dear God, deliver the people from divisive reactions. Dissolve the enmity that alienates, that hardens into bitterness and hate and vindictiveness. Help the people to understand and respect the unique democratic process by which our legislative bodies operate. Sensitize them to the burden of hard decisions Senators must make which will never please everybody. Help them to see that such struggle was the crucible out from which our forebears conceived this Republic. Then let us be thankful, O God, for the magnificent legacy which is ours. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1981

ETERNAL GOD, OUR HEAVENLY FATHER, worthy art Thou to receive our worship and adoration. We praise Thee, we adore Thee, we magnify Thee, Holy and gracious art Thou in all thy works and in all Thy ways.

Thy word declares:

The things that are seen are temporal, but the things that are unseen are eternal.—II Corinthians 4: 18.

We look for hope in the wrong place, Lord, then wonder why life seems futile and meaningless. We put our hope in that which is seen and transient which passes away and leaves us without hope. We search again, and again put our hope in that which is transitory only again to be left hopeless as it fails. We are so easily the victims of the visible, Lord, so easily tempted by the tangible.

Teach us, dear God, that the only adequate foundation for hope is Thyself, Thy faithfulness, Thy integrity. Help us to see that real security is found only in Thee. Teach us that ultimate reality is in eternal, unseen values, and help us place our trust in Thee alone. We ask this in the name of Him who trusted Thee even on the cross. Amen.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1981

ALMIGHTY GOD, SOVEREIGN LORD OF THE NATIONS, who hast revealed to Thy people Thy purpose for history. Thou hast a perfect plan, a perfect economy; and only that which conforms to it will endure. Empires rise and fall, nations come and go, governments wax and wane, leaders rise to prominence then vanish into obscurity. We play our little part on the stage of history and pass from view. How temporal we are, how transitory, how impermanent, how frail. But Thou, O Lord, art the same yesterday, today, and forever. Thou failest not.

Teach us the wisdom of submission to Thy will. Deliver us from false pride which boasts in our achievements as though we made it without Thee; as though we need Thee not. Help us to know Thy will, to be involved in that which endures all the exigencies of time and circumstance. Help us to be a part of what God is doing in history. Grant us to see that we are most effective in the present situation when we are most committed to that which transcends the present. Gracious heavenly Father, may we really mean it when we pray as we have been taught: ". . . hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on Earth as it is in heaven . . . For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever." Amen.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 1981

Let us remember in silent prayer Senator Stevens and his loved ones in the death of his mother and any others in our family that we know are hurting.

And let us also remember the astronauts.

FATHER GOD, who didst create man, male and female, in Thy image and united them in marriage to become one flesh; we pray for our families and homes. Forgive us when we treat marriage as the product of sociological theory which changes with cultural mores and forget that it is the creation of God subject to inviolate spiritual and moral law. Forgive us when we take the rules of the Senate more seriously than we take the law of God concerning marriage and the family.

Thy word declares that Thou art witness to the marriage vows, that they constitute a sacred, unconditional covenant sealed in heaven. Teach us to honor this foundation essential to the preservation of all social order. Secure our marriages and families, dear God, against every destructive force that alienates and poisons. Teach us that if we fail as spouses and parents no other achievement can adequately compensate. Grant that we, whose business is making laws, will not hold the law of God in contempt. Fill our homes with love for Thee and each other for the sake of Him who is Love Incarnate. Amen.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1981

"HOLY, HOLY, HOLY, LORD GOD OF HOSTS, Heaven and Earth are full of Thee, Heaven and Earth art praising Thee, O Lord most high." God of all righteousness forgive our propensity to make deals with evil. Forbear the ease with which we settle for something less than the best. Compromise is our business, because we seek identical ends by different means and we need the knowledge and experience that each brings to the issues. But keep us Lord from compromising with error. Deliver us from the pragmatism which defers to expediency and allows us to justify any means however wrong, because we purpose a good end.

We thank Thee Lord for the benefits brought to the Senate by the rich diversity of its Members coming from diverse places and subcultures with diverse views and convictions. We thank Thee for the wholeness that comes from broad differences which harmonize in arriving at just goals by righteous means to the benefit of all. Teach us to listen to each other, to hear, to respond in respect and love and wisdom so that laws written here will honor Thee and represent the very best in justice and equity for the welfare of our Republic and the world. In Jesus' name. Amen.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 1981

GRACIOUS FATHER IN HEAVEN, in this large Senate family where, so often, issues of great magnitude affect the destiny of millions, help us not to overlook the dedication of those who devote themselves to the minutiae and the mundane without which major matters would not be resolved. We recognize with gratitude the faithful service of office staffs, the efficient, tireless work of those in the cloakrooms, the Secretary of the Senate, the Sergeant at Arms and their staffs, the floormen, the doorkeepers and the pages. We thank Thee for all of the devoted services in the buildings and on the grounds; the maintenance people, the elevator operators, the police, and those who keep the place beautiful.

Help us never to take for granted loving, faithful support so essential to the effective work of the powerful, influential national leaders who occupy this Chamber. We thank Thee for the men and women of the press and pray that their dedicated efforts will accurately and adequately inform the people. And dear Lord, we pray for the families of all those we have mentioned. May Thy peace and love keep them safe and meet all their needs. We pray this in the name of the greatest of all friends. Amen.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1981

Lord God almighty, Judge of all the earth.—Genesis 18: 25.

GREAT ART THOU AND GREATLY TO BE PRAISED.

Justice and judgement are the habitation of Thy throne.—Psalm 89: 14.

Thou shalt execute judgement and justice to the earth.—Jeremiah 23: 5.

Thou shalt judge the world in righteousness and truth.—Psalm 96: 13.

Make us sensitive, O Lord to Thy righteousness and our accountability to Thee, personally and nationally. Help us to order our lives consistent with Thy justice, for judgment can fall so suddenly, so subtly, so unexpectedly, so catastrophically.

Help us, O Lord, to heed the warning of Moses to Thy ancient people, Israel:

Beware that you forget not the Lord, your God in not keeping His commandments and His judgements; lest, when you have eaten and are full, and have built goodly homes and dwell therein; and when your herds and your flocks multiply, and your silver and your gold has multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied; then your heart be lifted up, and you forget the Lord, your God

. . . And you say in your heart, "My power and the might of my hand has gotten me this wealth."

But you shall remember the Lord, your God, for it is He that gives you power to get wealth. . . . and it shall be, if you do at all forget the Lord your God. . . . I testify against you this day that you shall surely perish. As the nations which the Lord destroyed before your face, so shall you perish.—Deuteronomy 8: 11–20.

So help us God. Amen.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1981

Veterans' Day Prayer

Gracious God, as business is suspended tomorrow in remembrance of those who have sacrificed so much to protect the freedom won for us by the blood, sweat, and tears of our forebearers, make us thankful for our priceless heritage and dedicated to its preservation.

Deliver us, O Lord, from the tyranny of the trivial. Let us not be like children playing games on the mouth of a volcano, indifferent to the boiling and belching underneath. Sensitize us to the deepest issues, the issues beneath the issues, of national restlessness and fear. Keep us from preoccupation with symptoms while ignoring causes. Let us not be busy rearranging the furniture while the house is burning down.

Freedom has been so costly in American lives; help us Lord not to demean it, to devalue it, to let it degenerate into, "I do as I please," or "If it feels good, do it." Help us to understand that freedom is never cheap, that it has been purchased at an awful price and can be preserved only as we realize how precious it is, how rare in today's world, and that relentless vigilance is required to preserve it. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ who died to make men free. Amen.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1981

OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN, as I pray this morning, I am mindful of each person who is part of the Senate family. Help us to see each other as Thou dost see us; to understand that each one is of inestimable value to Thee; that each is unique and irreplaceable. Forgive us for ever evaluating others on the basis of criteria which are false and unworthy. Forgive us for comparing ourselves with others, forgetting that each is intended to be unlike all others in the divine diversity and that in Thy love, no one is more or less important than another.

We remember those who are in the hospital, Senators Goldwater and Leahy. We pray for complete recovery for them and Thy comfort for their loved ones. We pray for any others who are ill or facing difficulty and ask Thy special blessings upon them and their families. Gracious Father, teach us to care for each other, to treat each other as we would like to be treated. Help us to love each other, to see in each other the image of God, and to reverence life. We ask this in the name of Him who loved and cared in perfection. Amen.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1981

"OUR FATHER WHICH ART IN HEAVEN, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven."

Thou hast taught us this prayer, O Lord, and in times like these nothing we can pray seems more relevant. The glory of God, the coming of His kingdom and the doing of His will on Earth is the promise of a perfect social order, an order which cannot be achieved by the finest human effort unaided by God. Grant us the wisdom to acknowledge this and to yield our minds to the direction of the Holy Spirit, that hard decisions derived from intense struggle may conform to Thy purpose for history.

We pray for the astronauts and their families. May this probe into space be successful and may they return to Earth safely with mission accomplished. Grant to the Senators and their families a weekend of rest, reconciliation and renewal. Bless the time with their loved ones, and restore energy and strength, that the labors of the week to come may be pleasing to Thee and a benefit to the whole world. Through Christ our Lord, we pray. Amen.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1981

It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to Thy name, O Most High.—Psalm 92: 1, 2.

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole Earth is full of His glory.—Isaiah 6: 3.

GRACIOUS GOD, help us to realize that we need to worship Thee, that it is of the essence of true humanness. Help us to see that in denying Thee, we deny ourselves. In the words of the Apostle Paul:

Though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God, or give thanks to Him, and they became futile in their thinking and their senseless minds were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools.—Roman 1: 2, 22.

Thou dost not need our worship, O God, but we need to worship. Thou dost not lose Thy glory when we fail to honor Thee, but we devalue our humanity. Forgive us Lord for the idolatry which exalts man as God and worships the creature rather than the Creator.

Receive our gratitude for Thy forbearance, grace and love. In the name of Thy Son, our Saviour, we pray. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1981

Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.—Psalm 124: 8.

SOVEREIGN LORD, as the founders of this Republic sought and heeded Thy counsel more than 200 years ago, so may we in this crucial hour. Thy word promises:

If any one lack wisdom, let him ask of God who giveth freely and upbraideth not, and it shall be given him.—James 1: 5.

Gracious Father, grant that the leadership of this Nation, like the Founding Fathers, shall humble themselves before Thee, acknowledge their need of Thy wisdom, open their hearts to the Holy Spirit's direction and allow themselves to be guided in the light of Thy truth. We ask this in the name of Him who is "the Way, the Truth, and the Life." Amen.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1981

"O BEAUTIFUL FOR SPACIOUS SKIES, for amber waves of grain; for purple mountain majesty, above the fruited plain. America, America, God shed His grace on thee; And crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea."

We are profoundly grateful, God of our fathers, for the bounty Thou hast lavished upon our land and people. Thou hast preserved us through many domestic and international crises. Thou hast blessed our Nation as no other in history. Thou hast ordained human government as "ministers of God for good."

We thank Thee especially for this Government, conceived in the hearts and minds of our founders as a "government of the people, by the people, for the people." Enable this Government to fulfill in these days the mandate given it by the Constitution. Give to the Senators and all who bear responsibility for the conduct of their affairs, wisdom, and grace to find the way of justice, virtue, and peace in these troubled times. We ask this in the name of Him whose love is without measure. Amen.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1981

LORD GOD OF ABRAHAM, ISAAC, JACOB, AND JESUS, may we remember the spiritual roots from which our Republic springs; the Judeo-Christian tradition with its majestic ethical principles and precepts found in the Bible. We thank Thee for that which we hold in common with Islam; the one Holy Lord God of the

Old Testament; father Abraham of whom we all are children: Israel through Isaac, Islam through Ishmael, Christianity through Jesus Christ; and Mt. Sinai with its Ten Commandments of Moses, the basis of all moral order.

Forgive us, Lord, when we are blind or indifferent to the much we have in common and magnify that which divides and destroys to the great delight of that consummate deceiver of all mankind, Satan. Deliver us, gracious God, from the attitude that makes enemies of those with whom we disagree. Help us to be faithful to our distinctive convictions without compromise; to respect that which is distinctive about others; and to obey the supreme law of love for all. We ask this in the name of Him who is the Supreme and Sovereign Lord of the universe. Amen.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1981

GRACIOUS FATHER OF US ALL, we pray for all who suffer disappointment because of changed plans due to this Saturday session. We think especially of families who sometimes hurt deeply under such circumstances. This has been a difficult week, Father, in which everyone involved in Senate business has put in long, hard hours under great pressure. They will not have their normal weekend respite. Grant, dear Father, that whatever time they have will be free from stress.

We pray for those family members who may find it difficult to accept these forced interruptions in their plans even though they know this weekend work is necessary and important. Give to them a special measure of Thy grace and tranquillity which will compensate for expectations frustrated, plans set aside, and perhaps some hours of loneliness.

And, gracious Father, vouchsafe to those who work here extraordinary blessing that will provide an extra quality of renewal to their shortened hours of rest and relaxation. Fill our hearts and homes and offices with special peace and love. In Jesus' name. Amen.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1981

LET US PRAISE THE LORD in the words of the Psalms.

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the heights! Praise Him, all His angels, praise Him all His host! Praise Him, Sun and Moon, praise Him, all you shining stars! Praise Him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens! Let them praise the name of the Lord! For He commanded and they were created. And He established them for ever and ever; He fixed their bounds which cannot be passed.

Praise the Lord from the Earth, you sea monsters and all deeps, fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling His command. . . . Kings of the Earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the Earth! Young men and maidens together, old men and children! Let them praise the name of the Lord, for His name alone is exalted; His glory is above Earth and Heaven.—Psalm 148.

I give Thee thanks O Lord with my whole heart.—Psalm 138: 1.

O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever.—Psalm 136: 1.

Blessed be the name of the Lord from this time forth and for evermore! From the rising Sun to its setting the name of the Lord is to be praised! The Lord is high above all nations, and His glory above the heavens.—Psalm 113: 2–4.

Receive our praise and thanksgiving, Lord. Amen.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1981

FATHER IN HEAVEN, crisis is not new to us as a people, our Republic was born out of crisis. And our leadership has never failed at such times to call upon Thee for aid. Three times in its first 3 years, the Continental Congress called for days of fasting and prayer. On the first day of the First Congress, when a diversity of religions questioned its wisdom, they decided unanimously that prayer was necessary. When they were hopelessly divided as 13 Colonies with wide and deep differences, they prayed.

At the turning point of the Revolution, the Congress said, "Forasmuch as it is the indispensable duty of all men to adore the superintending providence of Almighty God; to acknowledge with gratitude their obligation to Him . . . it is therefore recommended to set apart Thursday . . . for solemn thanksgiving and praise, that with one heart and one voice the good people may express the grateful feelings of their hearts and consecrate themselves to the service of their divine benefactor . . ."

In this Thanksgiving week and at this time of need, gracious Heavenly Father, we thank Thee for Thy bountiful providence through the years and we ask for special divine intervention in our national affairs, in our families and among the citizens, in Jesus' name. Amen.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1981

Father in Heaven, we thank Thee for the blessings of the Thanksgiving recess, for caring times with family and friends; for relaxation, rest and renewal. Now these next 2 weeks the Senate faces imponderables, stubborn issues, which defy solution. In this place, Father, is concentrated the greatest personal and political power in the modern world. Yet it seems that nothing done here really works. Despite all the study, debate, struggle, and decision, international tension grows, the economy continues to decline, divorce, family failures, alcoholism, drug abuse, violence, crime, youth rebellion increase to epidemic proportions. It is almost as if the best efforts of this powerful body are an exercise in futility.

Lord God, more than human wisdom is called for. Grant to the Senators and their staffs superhuman ability to address the impossible in the resources of Almighty God. Do in our midst what God alone can do. Break in and through our human best, that justice, truth and peace may prevail. In the name of God we pray. Amen.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1981

ALMIGHTY GOD, SUPREME RULER OF THE UNIVERSE, Thy word declares:

Righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people.—Proverbs 14: 34.

We do not hear these words as a threat or a warning, O Lord, but as a simple statement of fact, an inviolate rule of history. Righteousness brings blessing, sin brings a curse; righteousness is constructive, sin is destructive. No civilization or empire has been able to survive the violation of this principle.

Deliver us, O God, from the presumption that we somehow are the exception, that the rule does not apply to us and can be ignored. Protect us against the false and insidious assumption that we can disregard the divine order and get away with it. Help us to see that whatever else we do, repentence for sin and turning to righteousness is the surest way out of our critical situation. Teach us that intransigence toward God's moral order is the surest way to destruction. Help us, mighty God, to take seriously Thy word to Thy glory and to our national preservation. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1981

FATHER IN HEAVEN, this Government was conceived as "of the people, by the people and for the people." I pray for the people of these United States, for their blessing and renewal. Help them to understand their responsibility as citizens, to vote, to communicate with their elected officials on a constructive, continuing basis. Help them to understand that complaining and criticizing do not compensate for duty, that duty calls for their involvement and support and that elections are the provision for change. Give them the wisdom to see that selfish interests are as deadly in the private sector as in the public.

I pray for the people of God, for the churches that they may accept the biblical mandate to pray for their leadership and realize that criticism does not compensate for prayerlessness. Forgive the churches, O God, for demanding that Congress legislate a morality that the churches fail to produce among their members. Help them to understand that judging a decision from hindsight is no trick, that hindsight is an exact science. Help them to appreciate the uncertainties in foresight from which decisions must be made. I pray this in the name of Him who loved enough to lay down his life for sinners. Amen.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1981

Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.—Psalm 127: 1.

Lord God of history, who has determined allotted periods and the boundaries of the nations.—Acts 17: 26.

WHEN WE HAVE DONE all we know to do for our Nation's defense, we are still vulnerable if we trust only in our military might.

Apart from Thee there is no real security, for the Lord is our defense.—Psalm 89: 18.

History is replete with the record of "Acts of God" which were decisive in military engagements. Thou didst lead Joshua and Thy people to the defeat of Jericho. Because of Thee the Midianites were defenseless against Gideon and his 300; and giant Goliath was no match for David and his sling. Japan in the middle ages was saved from invaders by strong winds, or the "divine wind," kamikaze. The mighty forces of Napoleon were defeated by winter snows. Dorchester Heights was saved because strong winds prevented British forces from crossing Boston Harbor.

We do not presume to ignore our responsibility for defense, O Lord, but deliver us from the fatal error of indifference to our need for divine direction and protection. In the Lord's strong name we pray. Amen.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1981

LOVING, HEAVENLY FATHER, Thy servants have worked long hours under great pressure, which shows no signs of diminishing. I do not pray for relief from responsibility, but for an extraordinary measure of grace. Strengthen the Senators who, under the duress of time and pressure from diverse interests, must make many decisions of great magnitude. Be with their staffs who run the offices and provide the information to make decisions. Be with those who process the mountain of business in and out of the cloakrooms. Be with those who record the debates and transcribe them for the Congressional Record with such demanding precision. Bless those who monitor parliamentary order, schedule and voting records. Be with the men and women who provide security at the doors, on the floor and on the street. Help all who are a part of the efficient support system without which the Senate could not function.

And Father, as we near Chanukah and Christmas, when families are more sensitive and fragile than ever, protect our families against the pressures of the Hill. Help us to make our homes a haven and not a Senate annex. Help us to make undivided, uncluttered time for our loved ones, free from distraction. Make us realize that national affairs will fail if our families disintegrate.

Gracious God, grant that these next 3 weeks will be times of peace, good will, hope, and love, to Thy glory and the honor of Thy Son. Amen.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1981

Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; and His greatness is unsearchable. The Lord is good to all, and His tender mercies are over all His works. Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and Thy dominion endureth throughout all generations.—Psalm 145: 3, 9, 13.

MIGHTY GOD, we recall the infamy of this day 40 years ago. We thank Thee for the resolution of that conflict and the good relationship we now enjoy with Japan. In that memory may we be more sensitive than ever to the irresistible logic of making peace and the insane irrationality of making war.

Father God, I pray that Thou wilt give to the Senate this week a special measure of wisdom and strength for their tasks. Help them to see what a practical resource they have in Thee. Prove to them, Father, that Thou dost understand their situation in every detail and that Thou art willing and able to enable them efficiently and judiciously to complete their business sooner than seems humanly possible.

Bless the Senate leadership, the leaders of the majority and the minority, their assistants and aides. Bless those who chair committees and subcommittees, those who manage bills and their support people. I pray, gracious Father, that this place will be filled with an unmistakable sense of Thy presence which will make it possible for the Senate to handle its pressing legislation in the least amount of time so that all who serve here and in the White House will have time to give priority to their families at this holiday season.

Dear God, show that Thou art a loving, caring, understanding Father who can enable humans to do better than their best, to do what without Thee would be impossible. We ask this in the name of Him whose birthday we celebrate at this season. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1981

GOD OF OUR FATHERS, help our spirits to be attuned to the gracious spirit of this season. Keep us from emotions which would grieve the Holy Spirit who seeks to fill all of us with the measureless love of God. The Senate cannot escape its duty which involves disagreement, sometimes at deep levels, but, dear Lord, deliver us from disagreeable spirits. In respect for and appreciation of those who differ, help us in patience to find the way of truth in love. O God, fill this place, our offices and homes with Thy love.

As we celebrate Chanukah, "Festival of Lights," and Christmas, the birth of Jesus, let the full meaning of these celebrations reach us. As Thou didst cause 1 day's supply of consecrated oil to keep the lamps burning for 8 days in the rededication of the Temple desecrated by Emperor Antiochus, make the light of the knowledge of Thyself glow in us. And let the glorious message of Christmas, "Glory to God in the highest, peace on Earth, good will toward men," infuse all of us with its fulfillment of the world's universal longing for peace.

In finishing the work to be done here Father, grant economy of time, and efficiency of process to the end of just legislation. In the name of Him whose advent into history promises salvation for all. Amen.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1981

HOLY LORD GOD, we thank Thee for the order Thou hast ordained in the universe. Planets follow their courses so that they can be charted and we can intersect their orbit with a space craft years in the future. The Earth maintains its journey around the Sun making possible seasons, days, and nights by which we plan our schedules accurately. We thank Thee, Lord for order which makes scientific investigation possible and without which there would be no science or mathematics. We thank Thee for minds to respond to the order with ability to examine, think, reason, and decide.

We thank Thee Lord for spiritual and moral order without which human relationships would be impossible and life could not exist. Forgive us when we are indifferent to these higher orders and condemn ourselves to the destructive consequences. We thank Thee for the law of sowing and reaping. Help us to understand its implications for our lives, that we reap what we sow. We cannot sow a dandelion and reap on orchid. We cannot sow lies and reap truth. We cannot sow to the flesh and reap the spirit. We cannot sow deception and reap honesty.

Deliver us, righteous God from the self-deception which makes us think we can disregard Thy law and escape judgment. We pray in the name of the Holy One. Amen.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1981

HEAVENLY FATHER, in seasons of joyous celebration, suffering and tragedy are always accentuated. We pray for those of our large family who in some unexpected way will experience hurt. We remember in love those who have lost loved ones, whose absence will be deeply felt at holiday meals and events. We pray for those who are ill in hospital or home, for those who may be hurt by accidents during the holidays. We remember Senator Goldwater whose absence we feel, and we commend to Thee each other and all of our loved ones. Grant to them special blessing.

And Father, we pray for the millions who live in constant deprivation, the homeless and the hungry, the refugees, the oppressed, the persecuted. We pray for those in prison and their families. We pray for the poor of our cities, the street people, the lonely and forgotten elderly. Help us, dear God to appreciate all our blessings and in gratitude to seek ways in which we may share our more than enough with those who never have enough. We pray this in the name of Him whom God gave as His priceless gift to the world at Christmas. Amen.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1981

Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to Thy name give glory, for the sake of Thy steadfast love and Thy faithfulness! Why should the nations say, "Where is their God?" Our God is in the heavens; He does whatever He pleases.—Psalm 115: 1-3.

LORD GOD OF THE NATIONS, as the Senate returns to its work, the situation in Europe is tense and fragile. Much as the domestic situation demands the attention of our leadership, international affairs cannot be ignored. Grant to the President, the Secretary of State, the National Security Council and the Members of Congress superhuman wisdom and courage so that they may work through the sensitive issues according to the will of God and for the common welfare.

We pray for the leadership of Europe, especially Poland that they may be guided to decisions that will insure peace. Dear God, may the promise of Christmas be a reality as never before, "Glory to God in the highest, peace on earth, good will toward men," In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1981

Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; but his delight is in the law of the Lord and on his law he meditates day and night.—Psalm 1: 1, 2.

WE THANK THEE, GOD FOR THY WORD, the Bible. We are guilty of thinking of it as a book of outdated, inflexible rules designed to take the pleasure out of life when in reality it is like an operation manual from the factory showing us how to put it all together. It is given to make life more abundant, free and joyful.

Teach us the truth and light and love that shines through its pages. Remind us that we ignore the Bible or neglect it to our own peril. We deprive ourselves of essential spiritual and moral nurture. We forfeit our opportunity to be instructed in the way and will of the Lord.

Help us, dear God, to avail ourselves of this incalculable treasure which is meat for our souls, light for our way, and strength for the day. We ask this in the name of Him who is the bread of life and the light of the world. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1981

GRACIOUS FATHER IN HEAVEN, not only do the Senators and all who work here look forward to the recess, their spouses and children are filled with the anticipation of unbroken time with them. I pray that nothing will be allowed to disappoint or frustrate those expectations. Grant to those who travel special protection wherever they journey, and return them safely when Congress convenes in January.

Let every home be filled with joy, pleasure, and peace. Dissolve estrangement or hostility which alienates family members, and draw them together in warm, loving, secure relationships. Give the Senators the ability to relax from tension and pressure. Help them to remember that they are not VIP's at home, but husbands and wives and parents. Help them to give priority to their loved ones, devoting undivided, undistracted time to their needs and concerns.

Dear God, make this holiday season the most wonderful ever for this large Senate family and all their relations. Bless them abundantly as they face the new year that they may return refreshed and equipped for whatever awaits them in the Senate. In the name of Him whose entry into history we celebrate. Amen.

Second Session

[January 25, 1982—December 23, 1982]

MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 1982

May we spend a few moments in silent prayer remembering the families of those who lost loved ones in the Korean Airline crash just a week and a half ago.

[Moment of silence.]

Lord God, our Heavenly Father, worthy art Thou, to receive glory and honour and power for Thou hast created all things, and for Thy pleasure they are and were created.—Revelation 4: 11.

Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are His; and He changeth the times and seasons. He removeth kings and setteth up kings. He giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding.—Daniel 2: 20–21.

GRACIOUS, FORGIVING GOD, adult pride forbids new year's resolutions; they were for earlier, immature years. But as we enter a new year, we cannot escape the desire for change. Help us Lord to keep faith with our determination to be better and do better.

We thank Thee for Thy love, for Thy Son's sacrifice, and for amazing grace that forgives sin and failure, enabling us to face the future freed from guilt and unimpeded by past mistakes. Awaken, dear God, the best that is in each of us and make the influence of the Senate to the Nation and the world one of unity, integrity and justice.

We pray this in the name of Thy dear Son. Amen.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 1982

ALMIGHTY GOD, GOD OF JUSTICE AND TRUTH, this session of Congress opens in an election year. As political campaigns grow in intensity, cynicism which corrodes the democratic processes will increase. Dear God, help those who run for office to refrain from doing that which feeds cynicism. And help those who are safe until the next election to do all in their power to avoid that which justifies cynicism. Grant, O God, that the actions and decisions of the Senate in the next 10 months will honor thee, reflect justice and truth for the common good.

Bless, O Lord, the members of the press who take seriously their mandate that the people may be adequately informed so the democratic process will work. Strengthen them in their resolve; sensitize them to the fierce power of words to build up or destroy. Help them to refrain from sowing seeds of cynicism. Make them wise in the use of the awesome power they possess. Somehow, Lord God, help politicians, press and people to be united in commitment to that which is right for our Nation and the world.

We pray for the President as he addresses the joint session, that his message will inspire national unity and purpose; and for the Congress, that its response will implement the finest and best for all peoples.

And, our Father, we remember Senator Williams at this time and commend him to Your loving care.

In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 1982

FATHER OF US ALL, we thank Thee for the memory of those whose dedication in life and service has contributed immeasurably to our history. Especially today, we thank Thee for the memory of a great public servant and President on this 100th anniversary of his birth.

Gracious God, who giveth to all life and breath and all things, help us to realize the transiency of life. Help us to see that we are always only a breath away from eternity and whatever lies beyond the grave. Help us to hear and heed the wisdom of the Psalmist:

As for man, his days are as grass; as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth. For the wind passeth over it and it is gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more. But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him.—Psalm 103: 15–17.

Forgive our presumptuous sin, O Lord, in treating life as though we have a corner on it and it is ours to do with as we please. Forgive us for human pride which causes us to ignore Thou who art the Giver of life. Teach us repect and gratitude for this strong, fragile gift.

In the name of Him whose life is the light of the world. Amen.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 1982

SOVEREIGN LORD OF HISTORY AND THE NATIONS, as the Senate gears up for 9 months of hard work, help the Members to begin with their priorities in order. Make then aware that their first accountability is to Thee, *For there is no authority except from God and those that exist have been instituted by God.*—Romans 13: 1 (RSV). Help them never to forget they are the servants of the people, *God's servants for (the peoples) good.*—Romans 13: 4 (RSV). Help them to realize that they need time for God, for worship and prayer and the Bible; that if they are too busy for God, they are too busy.

Give them grace not to neglect their families. Make them mindful that love for spouse is next only to love for God, that marriage is a sacred covenant sealed in Heaven. Remind them that children are a gift from God, theirs to love and support and guide to maturity. Keep them from being so busy trying to save the world that they lose their children. Help them not to use work on the Hill as an excuse to escape responsibility in the home. Preserve our families O God, that Senators may be examples in this indispensable base of all social order. We pray this in the name of the Heavenly Bridegroom who loved His bride to the death. Amen.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1982

OUR FATHER WHICH ART IN HEAVEN, many of us learned in childhood the prayer that the Lord Jesus taught. We heard it often from the lips of our parents as we were with them in the church. We pray it every time we attend public worship. Forgive us Lord for thoughtless mouthing of words which have become meaningless by their redundance. Forgive us for the familiarity that breeds contempt, even for that which is sacred.

Help us to understand why Christ would teach such a prayer. Help us to understand the essential wisdom in its petitions. Help us to perceive its relevance for our daily situation, to realize how it comprehends our basic human need.

Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. They will be done on earth as it is in heaven.— Matthew 6: 9–10.

Grant us to understand that the deepest longings of the heart in their totality are fulfilled in the glory of Thy name, the coming of Thy kingdom, and the doing of Thy will on Earth as it is in Heaven. Could we legislate these three conditions it would be to the profoundest satisfaction of all humanity. May we mean it when we say it, and seek it with all our hearts. In Jesus' name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1982

GOD OF OUR FATHERS AND OF ALL PEOPLES EVERYWHERE, we need Thee, our cities need Thee, the Nation needs Thee, the world needs Thee. We pray for Thy special blessing upon the "National Prayer Breakfast" and seminars tomorrow. As the President joins with representatives from Federal, State, and local government, with leaders from more than 200 nations and every State in the Union, may the Holy Spirit bring to that microcosm of the world a visitation of divine power, love, and grace. Grant protection and blessings to the President and First Lady, to Vice President and Mrs. Bush, and those who participate in the program. May Thy holy presence be experienced by all in attendance. May all be made aware of the Nations' accountability to Thee for justice, freedom and peace.

Be with the Senators and all who support them in their public service today. May Thy wisdom enlighten them, Thy power energize them, Thy truth and light guide them, Thy grace encourage them. Let Thy will be done in this place as it is in Heaven and grant that all of us may love mercy, do justly, and walk humbly with our God. We ask this in the name of Him whose life incarnated that walk. Amen.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1982

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.—Matthew 5: 9.

FATHER IN HEAVEN, our world languishes for peace. Human hearts long for the day when men shall "beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks . . . when they shall study war no more." What contradiction, dear God, in a world which universally desires peace, that there are those who prepare for war. Help us to see the profound wisdom with which Jesus spoke.

Dear Lord, help the Senators as they struggle with monumental issues which determine literally the destiny of every person on Earth. Help them hear what the Bible teaches; to contemplate its precepts, its values, its admonitions, its instruction. Help them to seek Thy wisdom and be directed by its light and truth. Somehow, dear God, give us the will for peace. Grant to the whole Nation the will for peace; for we remember that "peace on Earth" depends upon "good will among men." We pray this in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1982

Oh give thanks to the Lord, call upon His name; make known His deeds among the peoples. Sing to Him, sing praises to Him; speak of all His wonders. Glory in His holy name; let the heart of those who seek the Lord be glad. Seek the Lord and His strength; seek His face continually. Remember His wonders which He has done. His marvels, and the judgements uttered by His mouth.— **Psalm 105: 5 (NAS).**

GRACIOUS LORD GOD, let Thy glory be manifest in this place. Let Thy holy presence be felt in all the offices. Let Thy love infuse the heart of every person who works here so that each of us will love the others and be loved by them. Dispel all that is evil from our hearts. Let there be nothing in us that would grieve the Holy Spirit or offend a sister or brother.

Grant forgiveness to those who are burdened with guilt, assurance to those who are discouraged, comfort to those who hurt, patience to those who are lonely, strength to those who are weary, healing to those who are ill, hope to those who despair, joy to those who sorrow, wisdom to those who are confused, light to those who have lost their way. In the name of Him who is the way, the truth, and the life, we pray. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1982

ALMIGHTY GOD, we humans have a penchant for refusing to hear Thy voice until it is too late. We are, as Jesus said, able to discern the weather by the signs in the sky, but we *cannot discern the signs of the times.*—Matthew 16: 3. In our human conceit, impressed with our technological and scientific achievement, we are like the people of Babel who said, . . . *let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves.*—Genesis 11: 4 (RSV). We behave as though we are invincible, as though we have no need for Thee, as though we are too big, too smart, too strong for God. As though we are gods! Even massive problems with the economy, social evils increasing epidemically, growing international tensions and our powerlessness to resolve them fail to humble us.

Dear God, help us to listen to Thee before it is too late. Deliver us from pride and hardness of heart, the stubborn willfulness which made the prophet Isaiah inquire of Thee, *How long will it be, O Lord, until the people listen to Thee?* and Thou didst answer. *Until their cities lie in waste without inhabitant, and houses without men, and the land is utterly desolate.*—Isaiah 6: 11 (RSV).

Dear God, quicken our ears to hear, our eyes to see, our hearts to believe and our wills to obey Thee before it is too late! We pray in the name of the Judge of all the Earth. Amen.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1982

LORD GOD OF HEAVEN, SOVEREIGN RULER OF HISTORY AND THE NATIONS, we thank Thee for the memory of two great Presidents for whom God was a reality and in whose providence they placed their trust. We thank Thee for their faith which anchored their lives and hopes in the Rock of Ages. We hear the father of our country testify: ". . . of all the dispositions . . . which lead to political prosperity, religion and morality are indispensable . . . a necessary spring of popular government."

We hear the Great Emancipator as he called the people to a day of national humiliation and prayer: ". . . Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us. We have grown in numbers, wealth, and power as no other nation has grown but we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand that preserved us in peace, and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us . . . We have vainly imagined that all these blessings were produced by some superior virtue and wisdom of our own. It behooves us, then, to humble ourselves, to confess our national sins, and to pray for clemency and forgiveness."

As we celebrate the memory of these two extraordinary leaders may we emulate their humility and faith. So help us God. Amen.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1982

TWO-HUNDRED AND FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF GEORGE WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY

In the words of George Washington, let us pray.

"ALMIGHTY GOD, we make our earnest prayer that Thou wilt keep the United States in Thy holy protection; that Thou wilt incline the hearts of the citizens to cultivate a spirit of subordination and obedience to government; to entertain a brotherly affection and love for one another and for their fellow citizens of the United States at large. And finally that Thou wilt most graciously be pleased to dispose us all to do justice, to love mercy, and to demean ourselves with that charity, humility and pacific temper of mind, which were the characteristics of the Divine Author of our blessed religion, and without an humble imitation of whose example in these things we can never hope to be a happy nation. Grant our supplication, we beseech Thee, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen."

(The above prayer is a paraphrase of a portion of Washington's "Circular Letter Addressed to the Governors of all the States on Disbanding the Army," dated "Headquarters Newburgh 8 June 1783." It was cast into prayer form at an early date by turning it into direct discourse.)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1982

SOVEREIGN LORD OF HEAVEN AND EARTH, the words of Thy prophet Isaiah resonate in our ears as though written for us in our time of trouble: *How the faithful city has become a harlot, she that was full of justice! Righteousness lodged in her but now murderers. Your silver has become dross. Your wine mixed with water. Your princes are rebels and companions of thieves. Every one loves a bribe and runs after gifts. They do not defend the fatherless, and the widow's cause does not come to them.*—Isaiah 1:21–23 (RSV).

Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your doings from before my eyes; cease to do evil, learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; defend the fatherless, plead for the widow. Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool. If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land; But if you refuse and rebel, you shall be devoured by the sword; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.—Isaiah 1: 16–20 (RSV).

Gracious, patient, forgiving Father, may we hear Thy voice and obey. Grant to the Senate, despite its awesome political power, the wisdom to sense its human weakness, its fallibility against the satanic evils that plague us. Give the Senators the humility to acknowledge their dependence upon Thee. Make these powerful leaders an example of Godliness to the world. Help them see in these troubled times their unprecedented opportunity to turn the Nation from greed and selfishness unto Thee. So help us God. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1982

Blessed be the name of the Lord from this time forth and even for evermore! From the rising of the sun to its setting the name of the Lord is to be praised! The Lord is high above all nations, and his glory above the heavens.—Psalm 113: 2–4.

WE WORSHIP THEE O LORD, not because Thou dost need our worship but because we need to worship. We enrich our humanity when we praise and adore Thee, we diminish our humanity when we fail to worship Thee. Blessed be the name of the Lord.

Let Thy blessing rest upon all who labor here, not that we may exploit Thy blessings on ourselves, but that what is done here, what is decided here will be a blessing to those who are served by the Senate.

Be with those who are in need; the ill, the discouraged, the frustrated, the lonely, the tempted, those without hope, those financially burdened, those alienated from friends or loved ones. In grace, touch their lives with healing and peace. Let Thy will be done in the Senate, in all the offices and homes represented here. We pray in the name of Him who is the Great Physician, the Wonderful Counsellor, the Prince of Peace. Amen.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1982

FATHER IN HEAVEN, when pressure becomes heavy between those who hold opposing views, we are less inclined to concentrate on issues and more inclined to think personally. Our reason tells us we are united in one purpose for the common welfare, but our emotions incline us to see those who oppose us as enemies. We thank Thee for Senate tradition which respects political adversaries and for Senate language which never fails to recognize each other as distinguished.

Grant, O God, that this tradition will always be taken seriously and this language will always be more than polite rhetoric. Keep us mindful that we debate a point not because we are stubborn and inflexible, but because we are strongly convinced that our position is the best for that objective to which we all are dedicated.

Help us to keep our cool in the realization that love is the "fulfilling of the law," that the two great commandments are comprehended in love for God and neighbor. Never allow us to feel that love is unbecoming the dignity and decorum of this powerful body. Gracious, loving Lord, help us to conduct all our business on this floor as well as in our offices and homes in love. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

MONDAY, MARCH 1, 1982

"God of our fathers, whose almighty hand
Leads forth in beauty all the starry band
Of shining worlds in splendor through the skies,
And grateful songs before Thy throne arise.
Thy love divine hath led us in the past;
In this free land by Thee our lot is cast;
Be Thou our Ruler, Guardian, Guide and Stay,
Thy word our law; Thy paths our chosen way."

—DANIEL C. ROBERTS, 1876.

GOD OF OUR FATHERS, as we honor the Constitution, seeking to understand it and conform to it; so may we honor and emulate the faith of our fathers which generated our form of government. Help us to see that our national heritage is not an accident but intrinsically connected to that faith as fruit to root; and to abandon the Judeo-Christian root is inevitably to sacrifice the fruit.

Lord God, help us to see in these times as often in the past, that the way out of national difficulty is the way of repentence, faith, prayer, and obedience. In Jesus' name. Amen.

TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 1982

GRACIOUS, LOVING, HEAVENLY FATHER, the next few months promise difficult days for the Senators and their dedicated associates. But no one came to the Senate seeking an easy task and they are prepared for the hard work and tough issues confronting them. Grant that the intensity of debate, the demanding decisions from within and the pressures of press and public from without will not be allowed to erode and weaken respect, honor and unity.

We thank Thee for diversity which is of the very essence of unity. We thank Thee for the truth which emerges from the conflict of ideas. We thank Thee for the common purpose to which all are committed. Help us to see that love is stronger than any other force in history; that it is irresistible. Let love triumph here—love for God, for family, for peers, for all who serve in the Senate; love for country. Indeed, in obedience to Christ, love even for those who abuse us. Let the unconditional, unalterable, undiminishing, unending love of God fill our hearts. We pray this in the name of Him who was Incarnate Love. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3, 1982.

ALMIGHTY GOD, JUDGE OF ALL THE EARTH, to whom all are accountable and before whom all will stand for ultimate judgment, we pray for Thy special grace this day. The responsibility which the Senate faces is one which none enjoys and all will find difficult.

We come to this hour as fallible men and women, all profoundly aware of inadequacy, but committed to the duty imposed by this sensitive matter. We pray that the light and truth of God will infuse this place today. Thou hast promised, *If anyone lack wisdom, let him ask of God, who giveth freely and upbraideth not, and it shall be given him.*—James 1: 5. In humility we come to Thee and ask for transcedent wisdom. In confidence and trust we look to Thee, that out of these deliberations will come justice with mercy and compassion. In the name of Him who is perfect justice and unlimited compassion. Amen.

THURSDAY, MARCH 4, 1982

Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name.—Psalm 103: 1.

LORD GOD OF HOSTS, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, we invoke Thy presence in this Chamber today. As the Senate continues to address the awesome and painful duty imposed upon it by the Constitution, cover its deliberations with the light of Thy truth and the warmth of Thy love.

In the loneliness of decision which each Senator must finally make, help them to listen to the still, small voice of conscience within, confident that the Spirit of God can and will enlighten them if they seek His counsel. Strengthen them against confusion of voices from without which breed hostility and cynicism. Free them from distractions that obscure and militate against objectivity.

Gracious Father, make us aware that You are really here and that Your wisdom really can guide to a just conclusion to this matter. Let Thy will be done. In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

MONDAY, MARCH 8, 1982

I suggest that we observe a moment of silent prayer for the family of former Senator Clifford P. Case.

[Moment of silence.]

Let us pray:

The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. The Lord is good to all, and His compassion is over all that is made . . . The Lord is near to all who call upon Him in truth. He fulfills the desire of all who fear Him . . . The Lord preserves all who love Him.—Psalm 145: 8, 9, and 18–20 (RSV).

WE THANK THEE, LORD, for Thine availability. Thou art not a god far off or in hiding. Thou art near to us, nearer than hands or feet. If we reach for Thee, we have already gone too far. Nothing is too hard for Thee, nothing impossible. Thou knowest all things: the thoughts within us, the words unspoken on our tongues, the end of our lives from the beginning.

As Thou dost know us, Lord, in the total context of our being, rule Thou in our hearts today. Preside over the business of the Senate, guide the deliberations to a conclusion which will honor Thee and please Thee. "Hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done (in the Senate) as it is in Heaven. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory." Amen.

TUESDAY, MARCH 9, 1982

ALMIGHTY GOD, GRACIOUS FATHER OF US ALL, Thou hast guided the leadership of this Nation through troubled waters often in the past. We remember with gratitude their devout dependence upon Thee, how they turned to Thee, trusted in Thee in overwhelming circumstances.

They were not less wise in asking Thee for Thy wisdom, nor less strong in calling upon Thee for strength. They did not demean their humanness by humbling themselves before Thee, nor forsake their leadership by admitting their need for Thee. Indeed, Lord, by coming to Thee in their need, they enlarged their wisdom, increased their strength, dignified their humanness, and gave greater-than-ever leadership to the people.

Teach us dear God, that we have nothing to lose, everything to gain by obedience to Thee and everything to lose, nothing to gain by ignoring Thee. God of our fathers, give to the Senators, and all who labor here, with their families, the godly resources needed to lead the people through present difficulties. In the name of Him to whom belongs all power and glory. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10, 1982

FATHER IN HEAVEN, the hour of decision is always a lonely one and often agonizing. When the facts are in, the debate completed, and discussion exhausted, each is left alone with his conscience to choose his option. Many seek to avoid such a moment, leadership accepts the responsibility and declares its position.

Thank Thee Father, for men and women who accept such onerous duty which is the burden of leadership. Thank Thee that they may freely look to the Holy Spirit, the Divine Comforter, who counsels and illumines from within. May He make His presence known to this body and guide the Senators in the way of God, the way of integrity, honor, and justice. We ask this in the name of the One who is Wonderful Counsellor. Amen.

THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 1982

ALMIGHTY GOD OF JUSTICE AND TRUTH, gracious Father of love and mercy, we invoke Thy presence and blessing upon the Senate as it confronts the heavy issue of this day. Grant to each Senator special grace to accept the resolution of a matter which will be painful and sorrowful however it ends. Thank Thee, Lord, for faithful men and women who are prepared to do the hard thing, the right thing, in the assurance that truth and justice are their own reward and guarantee equity to all.

Help them to see that history will record this as one of the great hours in the annals of the Senate: that the word of God clearly promises that "God works in everything for good to those who love Him, who are called according to His purpose." As they faithfully discharge their solemn duty, distasteful though it be, may they find in the sanctuary of their souls the peace and love of God. We pray this in the name of Him who is the way, the truth, and the life. Amen.

MONDAY, MARCH 15, 1982

Blessed be the name of the Lord from this time forth and for evermore! From the rising of the Sun to its setting the name of the Lord is to be praised! The Lord is high above all nations, and His glory above the heavens.—Psalm 113: 2-4 (RSV).

LORD GOD OF ABRAHAM, ISAAC, AND JACOB, JUDGE OF ALL THE EARTH, to whom belongs the final disposition of human affairs, keep us from blindness, deafness, and indifference to the clear word of biblical prophecy.

Thy word declares, *the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved by fire, and the Earth and the works that are upon it will be burned up.*—II Peter 3: 10. As we read this word, written 2,000 years ago, which describe with such precision a nuclear blast, help us to examine our thoughts lest we be the instruments of its fulfillment.

Mighty Lord, Thy word reminds us, . . . *except the Lord guards the city, the watchman keeps awake in vain.*—Psalm 127: 1. Help us to realize the futility of armed protection apart from trust in Thee. In all our preoccupation with defense and the consummate destructive force of nuclear energy, help us to discern between national security and national suicide. Dear God, restrain us from self-destruction. We pray in the name of the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ, the Lord. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17, 1982

GRACIOUS GOD, OUR HEAVENLY FATHER, as the Senate moves more deeply into its demanding legislative agenda, strengthen its unity. We are one as humans, one as Americans, one in leadership and purpose. Our goals are one. We differ in the means by which those goals are to be achieved. Let not the differences dominate and destroy the oneness. Help us to see that diversity is of the essence of unity, the raw material out of which the fabric of democracy is woven.

Grant O God, the will to unity. In the awareness that "without a vision the people perish," give us a fresh vision of the United States of America. Help us to see afresh the power in unity with diversity; unity among ourselves in respect, honor, and love for one another. Help us to appreciate the importance of each individual in this large Senate family. Help us to appreciate our need of each other that we may be an effective, productive team. Help there to be unity between Congress and the White House. Give us all the grace to find the "better way" for all the people. Deliver us from unrighteousness in our private and public lives. Free us from selfishness and greed and pride. We ask this in the name of Him in whom all virtue came together. Amen.

THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 1982

Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name!

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits, who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases.—Psalm 103: 1-3 (RSV).

LOVING HEAVENLY FATHER, we pray this morning for all in our Senate family who are in need. We commend to Thee Senator Javits. May he be comforted in these hours by Thy loving presence and may he be aware of the love and concern of his many friends in this place. We pray for the rapid and complete recovery of Senator Baker and the total healing of Senator Thurmond.

There are those in our midst whose needs we know not. Be with those who are ill or lonely or discouraged. Encourage those who are frustrated and feel like quitting. Help those who have financial need, especially those facing election, who in addition to their unrelenting responsibilities here, must organize their campaigns and raise funds. We pray for our families, for wives who feel neglected or abandoned, for children who feel cheated because they have so little time with father.

Gracious God, touch every life in this large Senate family with healing and renewal, physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually. We ask this in the name of the Great Physician. Amen.

MONDAY, MARCH 22, 1982

Praise ye the Lord. Praise, O ye servants of the Lord, praise the name of the Lord.

Blessed be the name of the Lord from this time forth and for evermore.

From the rising of the Sun until the going down of the same, the Lord's name is to be praised.

The Lord's name is high above all nations, and his glory above the heavens.—Psalm 113: 1-4.

LORD GOD OF HEAVEN AND EARTH, God of love and mercy, of truth and justice, of light and wisdom; our Nation is desperately in need of unity: Unity among Members of Congress, unity between Congress and the White House, unity between government and the people, unity between blacks and whites, unity between labor and management.

Help us to understand the wisdom of Jesus, a house divided against itself cannot stand. Make us wise regarding the strategy of Satan to divide and destroy. Give us discernment to see that *we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.*—Ephesians 6: 12.

Gracious Lord, help us to see that the real battle is spiritual and that we need Thee. Give us grace and humility to look to Thee, to submit to Thee, to depend upon Thee. We implore Thee in the name of the King of Kings. Amen.

TUESDAY, MARCH 23, 1982

OUR HEAVENLY FATHER, Thou who art the God of the macrocosm and the microcosm, of the infinite and the infinitesimal, we commend to Thy care and safekeeping astronauts Lousma and Fullerton as they orbit the Earth. We pray for the comfort and reassurance of their families. Be with those who are involved in ground control, that the flight of the *Columbia* will fulfill all the purposes for which it was launched and return to Earth on schedule, mission accomplished.

As the people of America follow the space journey and are united in their concern for its success, help us to be united in dedicated concern for peace on Earth, for the relief of the poor, the oppressed and the persecuted, and the welfare of all peoples. We pray this in the name of The One whose mission is to "gather in one all that are in Heaven and on Earth." Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24, 1982

OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN, we pray for our families. Protect them against the pressures of Washington life. Let them not be casualties of the demands of political service. Our Nation cannot survive the breakdown of the American home. Help us to take seriously the fact that the family is the basic nucleus of the social order, the fundamental unit of education, where values are learned and lives are shaped.

Forgive us for our failure as spouses and parents, for allowing public affairs to take precedence over duty to family. Protect us from the seductive and corruptive influences that cause us to devalue our values and capitulate to conduct unbecoming national leadership. Help husbands to love their wives as Christ loved His Church and laid down His life for her. Help parents to realize that their children learn from their example rather than from their precepts. Strengthen our families, dear God, we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

MONDAY, MARCH 29, 1982

LORD GOD OF LIGHT AND LIFE, LOVING HEAVENLY FATHER, "who giveth to all life and breath and all things," we thank Thee for spring. We thank Thee for sunshine bringing light and warmth, for the reminder of resurrection and new life all around us. We thank Thee for fragrant air, for light breezes that caress, for budding trees, and bursting flowers, for the joyful, harmonious bird songs, for the awakening of Earth from its winter slumber.

Forgive us for ever taking for granted such enormous blessing simply because it is so predictable, so dependable, so familiar. Help us never to allow familiarity with common blessings to breed contempt in us. Help us to be grateful and to see in spring the life which Thou dost promise to those who respond, as does nature, to Thy perfect law. Help those who are lawmakers, of all people, to respect the laws by which Thou dost govern the universe. May we never ignore those laws without which there could be no science, no morality, no justice, nothing predictable or dependable in history. Above all may we honor the law of love which comprehends all law. In the name of Him who is Life and Light and Love. Amen.

TUESDAY, MARCH 30, 1982

FATHER IN HEAVEN, I pray this morning for the personal lives of the Senators whom I have come to admire and love very much. Many expect them to be superhuman, many others assume they are inhuman. Many expect them to be exemplary in their public lives and paragons of virtue in their private lives. Many others assume they are prodigal in their public lives and reprobate in their private lives. They are flattered and exploited, stereotyped and caricatured, envied and despised, adulated and censored. They are expected to be all things to all people and do everything for everybody.

Gracious God, they are very human, with all the virtues and vices of the people they represent. They are as strong and as weak, as proud and as humble, as courageous and as cowardly, as wise and as foolish as the people they serve. They are patriots with profound concern for the world, the Nation, their States and all peoples. They struggle with enormous issues, sometimes crucial to survival; they work hard, sacrifice much, and face the loneliness of decision often. Brace them, Lord, against the cynicism of their detractors, strengthen them in their daily resolve, deepen their love for family and home, unite them in the high purpose of the common good, and bless them as they pursue, to the best of their ability, the mandate which brought them to this place. Forgive their sins, make real to them the love of God in Christ and work Thy will through them. I pray this in the name of Jesus who knew the scorn, hatred, and abuse of those He loved and for whom He died. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31, 1982

LORD GOD, SOVEREIGN OF THE UNIVERSE AND OF HISTORY, we thank Thee for the safe return of the astronauts and for the success of their mission. In humility we thank Thee for the awesome order of the universe that makes it possible to conceive and consummate such a mission. We thank Thee that the universe is not capricious, that it functions according to laws which Thou hast ordained, so that it is predictable and dependable. We realize anew that freedom comes with order, that the alternative is chaos and destruction.

We thank Thee that history is orderly because Thou dost have a plan which transcends all the vicissitudes and exigencies of the human equation. We thank Thee that history is not "a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing," that history is not "absurd," that it is orderly and trustworthy.

We thank Thee for spiritual and moral order. Help us to see that when we violate the spiritual and moral order, we condemn ourselves to chaos and its consequences.

Father, the Senators are weary and probably feel some frustration. Help them and their legislative assistants to find their way through to an equitable and honorable decision today and, in the process to honor each other, to respect each other, and to love each other. In the name of Him who is Incarnate Love. Amen.

THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 1982

GOD OF ABRAHAM, ISAAC AND JACOB, OF JESUS, THE APOSTLES AND PAUL, as the Senate recesses in recognition of the most significant celebrations in the Jewish and Christian years, may the reality of Passover and Easter bring extraordinary blessing to those who celebrate. Help us to understand and appreciate the essential connection between these two ancient acts of worship.

Help Christians to comprehend with gratitude the Jewishness of their faith, the priceless legacy received from Judaism and the Old Testament. Thy word declares, "Salvation is of the Jews." Help us to remember the bond we have in one God, His servant, Abraham, and the law. May Christians honor the Jewish roots from which their faith springs and may we find love for one another in the love of God.

Grant, O Lord, that this recess will be one in which families will enjoy much time together. Help the Senators to rest and relax and be restored physically, emotionally and mentally for the months of hard work ahead. We ask this in the name of Him who is "Wonderful Counselor." Amen.

TUESDAY, APRIL 13, 1982

FATHER IN HEAVEN, we commend to Your gracious comfort and care Senator and Mrs. Robert C. Byrd, their daughter, and her family in the tragic death of grandson Michael.

Lord Thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever Thou hadst formed the earth and the world from everlasting to everlasting Thou art God.—Psalm 90: 1–2.

Gracious Father, the Senators have heard many voices during the recess and often the voices are conflicting. They heard many voices from the people; they heard the voice of special interests; they have remembered their own words as they spoke to their people in their campaigns. They have heard the voice of the administration, the voice of their party, the voices of their peers. Now they must listen to the voice of Conscience. Grant, O God, that they may be still and listen to Thy voice.

As they listen, study, ponder, and discuss, give them special wisdom to sift and sort and filter the voices so that out of debate and decision may come truth and justice and righteousness, that the will of God may be done on Earth as it is in Heaven. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ whose life was a total commitment to Thy will. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14, 1982

THY WORD REMINDS US, O LORD, that "there is no authority but of God, the authorities that be are ordained of God" and that those in authority are "God's servants for good," I pray for those Senators who face election in the fall. Give them special wisdom as they plan their campaigns. Raise up for them the strongest and wisest possible staffs who will maximize every opportunity for contact with the people. Help those who are having difficulty raising campaign funds. Protect them against selfish interests which would exploit them for political advantage. Help the Senators to know that Thou are able to influence, in righteous ways, those who would support campaigns without attaching unworthy conditions.

Teach them, Lord, that they can really trust Thee to help them with hard realities—like money and staff and favor with the people. Protect their families Lord, against all of the abuses so common to public life, especially during elections. Help them to have time with their loved ones. As they move more and more into the heat of campaigns, give them special grace to keep their values straight and their priorities in order. Strengthen them as they pursue the difficult task of Senate responsibilities and campaign necessities. Above everything, Lord, help them to take Thee seriously as the one from whom "promotion cometh," who "puts down one and puts up another."

We ask this in the name of Him with Whom is all power and authority and rule, Jesus Christ, the Lord. Amen.

MONDAY, APRIL 19, 1982

Praise ye the Lord, Praise ye the name of the Lord; praise Him, O ye servants of the Lord, Praise the Lord; for the Lord is good; sing praises unto His name; for it is pleasant.—Psalm 135: 1 and 3.

LORD GOD OF ALL HISTORY, OF ALL NATIONS AND OF ALL PEOPLES, we pray for the peace of the nations. We pray for the leadership of England and Argentina that confrontation may be avoided and that they may find agreement and a friendly outcome to their situation. We pray for the leadership in the nations of Central America, that violence may cease and order be established between and within the nations.

We pray for a resolution to the alienation in the Middle East, for all who bear responsibility for government. We pray for the peace of Jerusalem. We pray for Poland and Afghanistan, for Iraq and Iran and all who exercise authority in those lands.

Gracious Father, we pray for special wisdom for the President, the Secretaries of State and Defense, the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee in the Senate and all who serve with them in their effort to bring peace. In the name of the Prince of Peace, we pray. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21, 1982

ALMIGHTY GOD, FATHER OF ABRAHAM, ISAAC, AND JACOB, as we recall the horrors of the Holocaust, we praise and thank Thee for the courage, resilience, and perseverance of the Jewish people. Four thousand years ago, Thou didst call Abraham with the promise to give him a great name and make him a great nation through whom all the families of the Earth would be blessed. We thank Thee for the incalculable blessing the Jews have been to history. We thank thee for their book, the Old Testament, for their law, the Ten Commandments, for their value system with its provision for the oppressed, the poor and the stranger, and for its high view of the family. We thank Thee for their contributions to science, education, music, art, finance, and merchandising. We pray Thy blessing upon them and upon the leadership they give to our Nation. In the name of the Lord of Heaven and Earth. Amen.

MONDAY, APRIL 26, 1982

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is Thy Faithfulness . . . . The Lord is good to those who wait for Him, to the soul that seeks Him. It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.—Lamentations 3: 22, 23, 25, 26 (RSV).

Let us unite in silent prayer that the Sovereign Lord will overrule in human affairs that we may have peace.

ALMIGHTY GOD, who dost use history to serve Thy sovereign purposes, with whom is all power and all knowledge; the leadership of our Nation has called upon Thee in times of great need in the past and Thou hast answered. Thy word declares that what is impossible for man is possible for God. At a time when leaders find agreement difficult, when ideas are conflicting and the heat of emotions rise, grant to the Members of Congress and the administration the humility to seek wisdom from above which transcends the best of human thought. Help them to know and believe that the future is known to Thee and that Thou art able to guide them in the present in a direction which guarantees justice, equity, and peace in the future. We pray this in the name of Him who is the Lord of history. Amen.

TUESDAY, APRIL 27, 1982

ALMIGHTY GOD, INFINITE SOVEREIGN LORD, we come to Thee at a time of great need. The leadership of our Nation faces a superhuman task. Profoundly complex issues challenge the best of human thought and action: The vast needs of the poor and the oppressed—the elderly and disadvantaged—a stubborn economy which defies every effort to bring it under control—sensitive, complicated international affairs—problems of national security all confront Congress with unrelenting pressure.

As Thou didst give wisdom to King Solomon to rule, give wisdom to Thy servants in the Senate. Help them to understand that Thou are real, and that Thy help is relevant and available. Give them grace to recognize their need for divine intervention and humility to ask for it. Help them to know that Thou canst give them wisdom and strength far beyond their own to face these critical days. As our Founding Fathers called upon Thee and received direction to set this Nation on its unprecedented course, so may leaders today look to Thee in that same confidence. We ask this in the name of Him who is all wise, all powerful, perfect in grace and love. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28, 1982

OUR HEAVENLY FATHER, we commend to Thee this special day, as the President visits Members of Congress, and ask for the presence of Thy spirit to guide and direct the conversations and decisions.

We are grateful for our legacy as a Nation; for the Declaration of Independence with its indisputable rationale for inalienable human rights endowed by a Creator God. Help us never to forget that this is fundamental to our system of values which would be nonexistent if our Founding Fathers had declared: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are descended from monkeys . . ." We thank Thee for a legacy which insists that the purpose of government is to protect the rights endowed by the Creator. We thank Thee for the Declaration's unequivocal statement against oppressive systems. Forgive us, Lord, for the times we, as individuals and groups, violate our cherished manifesto.

We are grateful for the Constitution with its unprecedented design for a representative government which derives its power from and is accountable to the people; and for the astounding fact that it continues to work after 200 years. We thank Thee for men and women who believe that such a government should represent all people indiscriminately and who struggle in this body to honor that mandate. Grant to the Senators and their staffs special grace, understanding, patience, and love in their struggle. We pray this in the name of Him by Whom and for Whom all things were created, Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

THURSDAY, APRIL 29, 1982

ETERNAL GOD, before Thee nations rise and fall; they grow strong or wither by Your design. Help us to repent our country's wrong and to choose Your right in unity and renewal.

Give us a glimpse of the holy city Thou art bringing to Earth, where pain and tears and death will be done away, and nations gather in the light of Thy presence.

Teach us peace, so that we may plow up battlefields and pound weapons into building tools, and learn to talk across all boundaries as brothers, in Thy love.

Talk sense to us, so that we may wisely end all prejudice, and may put a stop to cruelty which divides or wounds the human family. Draw us together, as one people who do Thy will, so that our land may be a light to nations, leading the way to Your promised kingdom.

Great God, eternal Lord, long years ago You gave us this land as a home for free people. Show us there is no law or liberty apart from Thee; and let us serve Thee modestly, as a devoted people; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

MONDAY, MAY 3, 1982

"THE GOD OF ABRAHAM PRAISE, all praised be His name, Who was and is, and is to be, always the same! The one Eternal God, whose timelessness is clear. The first, the last; beyond all thought, throughout the years!

"He hath eternal life/implanted in our soul; His love shall be our strengthening, while ages roll. Praise to the Living God! All praise be His name, Who was, and is, and is to be, always the same!" (Revised version of the Yigdal by Daniel Ben Judah.)

Almighty God, we prasie Thee, not that Thou dost need our praise but our souls need to worship and adore Thee. Our humanness demands it and suffers when we fail to praise Thee. Our spirits languish and starve when we do not worship Thee. We need Thee, Lord. We need Thy mercy, Thy forgiveness, Thy love, Thy grace.

Search us, O God, and know our hearts! Try us and know our thoughts!

And see if there be any wicked way in us and lead us in the way everlasting!—Psalm 139: 23, 24.

Amen.

TUESDAY, MAY 4, 1982

GRACIOUS GOD, CREATOR, SUSTAINER, CONSUMMATOR OF HISTORY, give to leadership of the Nation the will to unity and peace. We are familiar with the age-old strategy of an enemy to divide and destroy. Forbid Lord that our leadership should inadvertently capitulate to such transparent tactics at such a critical time in domestic and foreign affairs. Strengthen them against all the personal and institutional pressures which would divide and conquer.

May the breath of God warm hearts and cool emotions and may we remember with gratitude that we are one, we are not enemies however great the differences. We thank Thee for our manifold diversity which is the glory of our unity. Help us to remember the Biblical insight which says: *We are not contending against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.*— Ephesians 6: 12 (RSV).

Gracious Lord of love, keep us from seeing an enemy in each other and grant grace that will turn discord into harmony and out of struggle bring a symphony of truth and righteousness and justice. We beseech Thee earnestly in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 5, 1982

OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN, our hearts are heavy this morning. We see around us a very troubled world: International tensions in many places and within our borders growing distrust cynicism, and anger. We recall the words of General MacArthur: "Military alliances, league of nations, all in turn have failed, leaving the only path to be by the crucible of war. The utter destructiveness of war now blots out that alternative. We have had our last chance! If we do not devise some more equitable system. Armageddon will be at our door! The problem is basically theological and involves a spiritual recrudescence . . . ."

Lord of history and the nations may we in this critical hour remember the spiritual roots from which our Nation grew. As our fathers before us in times of trouble turned to Thee, may we do likewise in humility, repentance and trust. Through Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

THURSDAY, MAY 6, 1982

ALMIGHTY GOD, we thank Thee for this National Day of Prayer proclaimed by the President at the request of Congress. May we take it seriously. May the people take it seriously. May the churches take it seriously. Deliver us from perfunctory religious observance today. Keep us from making this simply a "tip the hat to God" day. We are in trouble; the world is in trouble and we need Thy help.

More than 200 times in the past the leadership has called the Nation to prayer in time of crisis. We thank Thee for such a precedent. Help us to be true to that legacy. In our human pride, forbid, Lord, that we should wait until the world blows up in our face before we are willing to humble ourselves to seek Thy face, to turn from our wicked ways and pray. Help us, Lord, before we reach the outer limits of pride and indifference, to call upon Thee, to confess our need, to trust Thee. We make this supplication in the name of Him Who loved us and gave Himself for us. Amen.

MONDAY, MAY 10, 1982

It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High: To show forth thy lovingkindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness every night.—Psalm 92: 1, 2.

OUR FATHER WHO ART IN HEAVEN, we pray for the families of the Senators. We pray for their protection, for strengthened relationships between husbands and wives, parents and children. As election campaigns intensify, as work in the Senate becomes heavier and the tension of conflict increases, dear God do not allow families to be sacrificed on the altar of politics.

Gracious Father, help the Senators to take time, to make time for their families. Help them to be an example to the Nation of the sheer necessity of strong family life. Help "husbands to love their wives as Christ loved His church and gave up His life for her." Help them not to lose their children in the process of winning an election. Loving Lord, may we heed the lesson of the Bible and history, that the family is the core of culture and the nucleus of social order; that as the family goes, so goes the Nation! In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

TUESDAY, MAY 11, 1982

God of peace; Lord of Heaven and Earth, who hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the Earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; that they should seek the Lord.—Acts 17: 26.

WE PRAY FOR THE LEADERSHIP OF THE NATIONS. The world languishes for peace: Peace between nations, peace between races, peace between political parties, peace between government and people, peace between labor and management, peace between husbands and wives, peace between parents and children.

Holy Father of us all, lead us to be peacemakers. Forgive us for being academic about peace, for theorizing and idealizing about peace between nations when we refuse to deal with alienation among ourselves; when we devote no effort to make peace with our spouses, or our children; when we will not make peace among blacks and whites and hispanics. Grant, O God that each of us will take the initiative to make peace where we are, where we have influence. And give us the grace to submit to the Prince of Peace to practice His love, to abide in His grace. In His name we pray. Amen.

WEDNESDAY MAY 12, 1982

ALMIGHTY GOD OF ABRAHAM, ISAAC, AND JACOB, we forget our spiritual heritage to our own peril. Grant us to heed Moses' warning to Israel as they were about to enter the land: *Take care lest you forget the Lord your God . . . When you have eaten your fill, and have built fine houses to live in, and your herds and flocks have multiplied, and your silver and gold increased, and everything you own has prospered . . . and you say "My own power and the might of my own hand have won this wealth for me" . . . . If you do forget the Lord your God . . . I warn you that you shall certainly perish.*—Deuteronomy 8: 11–19.

Help us Lord to contemplate the words of President Lincoln in his call for a "Day of National Humiliation, Fasting and Prayer:" "Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God who made us. We have grown in numbers, wealth and power as no other nation has grown but we have forgotten God. It behooves us then, to humble ourselves to confess our national sins, to pray for clemency and forgiveness."

Long suffering God, forgive our pride, our spiritual indifference. Bring us to repentance and renew our land. For Thy glory. Amen.

THURSDAY, MAY 13, 1982

FATHER IN HEAVEN, the Lord Jesus said that greatness means service, that those who would be greatest in His kingdom should be the servants of all. In this prestigious place, where position and power prevail, may we never forget the powerless ones without whom the business of the Senate would come to a standstill.

We thank Thee for those who maintain buildings and grounds, who run the people movers, who keep electrical equipment functioning. We thank Thee for those who keep the records, who study bills, who do the detailed work required by committees, who record the minutes. We thank Thee for the very busy people in the cloakrooms, for those who answer phones, who file. We thank Thee for receptionists, for those who prepare and serve meals and those who provide security. Thank Thee, Lord, especially for the pages, for their courteous attention to the needs of the Senators, their readiness to serve, their hard work and the care and diligence they give to their studies.

Help us never to take for granted those who serve with such dedication or underestimate the importance of their tasks to the whole body. Bless them, encourage them, and supply all their needs. We ask this in the name of Him who was the Suffering Servant for all people. Amen.

FRIDAY, MAY 14, 1982

GRACIOUS FATHER IN HEAVEN, this has been an exhausting week for the Senators and all who labor here. We are accustomed in our culture not to reveal need. Strong people are never supposed to be vulnerable or manifest weakness. So we keep the "lid on," conceal our feelings, and allow pressure to build up until it explodes in anger or frustration or, worse, implodes, damaging delicate balances inside us.

But some in our large family are hurting. Some are ill in hospital or home. Some here are silently enduring pain—physically or emotionally. Some are discouraged and about ready to "throw in the towel." Others may have financial difficulty or be estranged from spouses or a son or daughter may be in trouble—into drugs or alochol or immorality.

Whatever the need, loving Father, touch that life with healing and renewal. Help us, dear God, to be gentle with each other, to affirm and love one another. And for those who face busy weekends, campaigning or whatever, help them to get some rest and relaxation and have some time with the family. In Jesus' name. Amen.

MONDAY, MAY 17, 1982

God have mercy upon us, and bless us and cause His face to shine upon us. That Thy way may be known upon earth, Thy saving health among all nations. Let the people praise Thee, O God; let all the people praise Thee.—Psalm 67: 1-3.

LORD GOD OF THE NATIONS, the people desperately need direction. They are confused by many conflicting voices which are fragmenting and disintegrating society. The people need to hear one voice, one clear united voice instead of an avalanche of babble.

If the Senate communications confusion, what can be expected of the people, Lord? If 100 leaders cannot "get it together," certainly the people will not. Dear God, help the Senate to give the leadership so urgently needed in the Nation and the world at this time. Help them to speak with one voice in truth and justice, righteousness and peace. We pray in the name of Him who came to Earth to unite all people in love and peace. Amen.

TUESDAY, MAY 18, 1982

OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN, the responsibility required of the Senators at this critical time in national affairs is beyond human ability and endurance. The magnitude of national debt and deficit overwhelms reason, turning discussions about billions upon billions and trillions of dollars into meaningless rhetoric, exceeding comprehension.

It has been said, "Man's extremity equals God's opportunity," but there must be the admission of extremity. Deliver the Congress from the presumption that it now can accomplish what a generation of leadership has been unable to do. Father, the finest minds are represented in this body. May humility be a part of their genius and may they acknowledge their need for the wisdon of Solomon which comes from above, to resolve the cosmic dilemma they confront.

And gracious Father, grant to the leadership of the Senate special wisdon and strength to navigate this House through the stormy gale and heavy seas upon which the ship of state is cast. Help them, Lord, to really believe Thee, really trust Thee, really yield to Thy righteous will. In the name of Him who rebuked the wind and the waves and they obeyed. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 19, 1982

FATHER IN HEAVEN, I pray this morning in the words of J.G. Holland:

"God give us men!

"A time like this demands strong minds, great hearts, true faith, and ready hands; men whom the lust of office does not kill; men whom the spoils of office cannot buy; men who possess opinions and a will; men who have honor; men who will not lie; men who can stand before a demagogue and damn his treacherous flatteries without winking; tall men, sun-crowned, who live above the fog in public duty and in private thinking."

Father, let Thy name be magnified, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in this place as it is in heaven . . . . For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

FRIDAY, MAY 21, 1982

FATHER IN HEAVEN, Thou knowest the weariness of body and mind felt by all who have been working so hard. Thou knowest the tension, the frustration, the disappointment, the anger which has been generated by the relentless pressure of these past days.

Help Thy servants to find relief in Thee. For those who face heavy weekend commitments, help them to find time for rest and relaxation, time to be with their families, time to worship and consider transcendent truth. Make real to them the promise of the prophet Isaiah, . . . *they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings as eagles,* *they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.*—Isaiah 40: 31.

We pray this in the name of Him who said, *Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest . . . .* Amen.

MONDAY, MAY 24, 1982

O Lord, thou hast searched me, and known me. Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thoughts afar off . . . there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O Lord, thou knowest it altogether.—Psalm 139: 1–4.

WE PRAISE AND THANK THEE, LOVING LORD for the assurance of Thy sovereign and unceasing providence—that Thou dost never leave us or forsake us. We are grateful for this reminder in the words of a lovely old folk melody: "The lone, wild bird in lofty flight is still with Thee, nor leaves Thy sight, and I am Thine. I rest in Thee. Great Spirit, come and rest in me. The ends of Earth are in Thy hand; the seas' dark deep and far off land, and I am Thine. I rest in Thee. Great Spirit come and rest in me."

Teach us, eternal Father, to rest in Thee, to entrust ourselves to Thee, and to walk in confidence and peace, strengthened by the assurance that Thou art with us always. We thank Thee for the beloved Comforter, the Holy Spirit, for His infallible and untiring counsel. In Thy name, we pray. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 26, 1982

The eternal God is our dwelling place, and underneath are the everlasting arms.—Deuteronomy 33: 27.

He who dwells in the shelter of the most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say to the Lord, "my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."—Psalm 91: 1–2 (RSV).

WE THANK THEE, HEAVENLY FATHER, for this wisdom from Israel. We are at home when we are with Thee; we are lost without Thee. We were made for Thee. Our souls languish for Thee. Forgive our preoccupation which deprives us of our resource in Thee. We are less than we ought to be when we neglect Thee.

"Thou hast made us for Thyself, O God, and restless are our hearts until they repose in Thee." (St. Augustine). Draw us to Thyself, dear Lord, for the sake of our humanness, our effectiveness in our tasks, our associates and families. Amen.

TUESDAY, JUNE 8, 1982

. . . for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. And He shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come ye, and let us walk in the light of the Lord.—Isaiah 2: 3–5.

GOD OF ABRAHAM, ISAAC, ISHMAEL, AND JACOB, Lord of all peoples, hasten the day when these words of Isaiah shall come to pass. Grant restraint to the leaders of Israel, Lebanon, Syria, and Palestine, and to the Governments of England and Argentina. Give us the will to peace. Make us wise to the incalculable waste, destructiveness and futility of war. Gracious God, help our leaders and those of all nations to make peace and not war. Help us all to understand that Thy purpose for history is to unite all things in Christ and grant us the grace to submit to Thy will. In the name of Him who is the Prince of Peace. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9, 1982

OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN, we thank Thee for Thy unconditional love and for the provision Thou hast made in the sacrifice of Christ for our failure and sin. Help us, Lord, when we are not willing to admit our need and thus deprive ourselves of that forgiveness, cleansing, and renewal. It has been said that unrelieved guilt is the most corrosive force in the human heart. Like acid, it burns out moral sensitivity and awareness, neutralizes conscience, dismantling values, dissipating spiritual energy, destroying resolve. We live in the fear of being discovered and the pressure of hiding the truth from spouse, children, friends, and even from Thee.

Gracious God of holy love, deliver us from the delusion that guilt can be ignored. Help us to see that it is poison to the soul. Enable us to turn to Thee in humble repentance and confession, receiving forgiveness and new life which Thou hast so graciously offered in Thy Son, in whose name we pray. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16, 1982

Father, we observe a moment of silent gratitude for the situation in the Falklands. [Moment of silence.]

ALMIGHTY GOD, the imponderable issues before the Senate resist the ultimate in human reason and patience. Wise and rational though the Senators be, there are spiritual forces that defy the finest, sharpest human intellect and generate confusion and dissension. Grant to this body the awareness that we all have a common enemy whose strategy is to divide and destroy.

Help us, Lord, not to be deceived by the one who is the enemy of public and private sector, Democrat and Republican, liberal and conservative, black and white, rich and poor, male and female, God and man; a spiritual enemy against whom only spiritual force is adequate.

In the name of Jesus Christ, I pray against this enemy. I pray for the infilling of God's love which will dissolve hostility; for the peace of God which will relieve tension and give unity; for the wisdom of God that will clear heads, cool hearts, and bring resolution to the struggle. Amen.

FRIDAY, JUNE 18, 1982

LORD GOD OF OUR FATHERS, give us ears to hear the wisdom which Thou didst speak through Thy prophet Zechariah: *This is what the Lord Almighty says: "administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another. Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the alien or the poor. In your hearts do not think evil of each other."*—Zechariah 7: 8–10.

On this 10th anniversary of Watergate, when we are being reminded of the arrogance of power and the deceit of trusted leadership, the epitaph of Uzziah, king of Judah, seems profoundly relevant: . . . *as his power increased—his heart grew proud—and this was his ruin.*—2 Chronicles 26: 16.

Father in Heaven, at a time when cynicism and distrust are epidemic, send us spiritual and moral renewal, and let it begin with leadership. Humble us, Lord, before it is too late, restore to us the dream of our forefathers, and forbid that we should be willing to settle for anything less. In Thy name and for Thy glory we pray. Amen.

MONDAY, JUNE 21, 1982

O Lord our Lord, how excellent is Thy name in all the earth! who hast set Thy glory above the heavens.—Psalm 8: 1.

I will praise Thee, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will shew forth all Thy marvelous works.—Psalm 9: 1.

Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised . . .—Psalm 48: 1.

LORD GOD OF HEAVEN AND EARTH, SOVEREIGN RULER OF THE NATIONS, as the Senators face 2 weeks of heavy schedule and hard work, grant to them an eye single to their mandate. Help them order their priorities properly, deliver them from the tyranny of the urgent that they may devote themselves to the truly important. Give special wisdom to the leadership and infuse the membership with the will to unity and credibility.

We remember especially President Reagan as he meets with Prime Minister Begin. Cover their meeting with wisdom, resolution, and peace. May Thy name be hallowed, Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on Earth as in Heaven. Amen.

TUESDAY, JUNE 22, 1982

ETERNAL GOD, FATHER OF ABRAHAM, ISAAC, JACOB, and of all peoples, on this day when the monumental heroism of Raoul Wallenberg during World War II is being remembered, may we rededicate ourselves to the fundamental conviction of our Founding Fathers.

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights . . . That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from consent of the governed."

Forgive us Lord, when we as a people have been involved in or tolerant of violation of this fundamental in our national credo. Help us to see that when we fail to recognize and honor Thee, the One who created equality and endowed human rights, we forfeit both and the principle that government is instituted to preserve both.

Help us, dear God, to recover our spiritual and moral roots that we may preserve their fruit. In Jesus' name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 23, 1982

OUR FATHER WHO ART IN HEAVEN, we find it so difficult to take Thee seriously. Some of us don't believe in Thee at all. Others of us say we do, but we live as though we don't. Some of us are too busy to give Thee much thought except when we get into trouble, then we use Thee as a fire escape or a life preserver and forget Thee as soon as we're safe. Some of us are secretly angry with Thee. Frankly, we feel we have been treated unjustly and we blame Thee. Some of us see so much tragedy, so much injustice, so much pain in the world, that we cannot understand how a God of love could allow it.

Despite the fact that the Bible is filled with assurance of Thy unconditional love, concern, and compassion, though Thou hast promised never to leave us or forsake us, we choose not to believe Thee. Forgive us, Lord, help us to understand, to trust, to love and adore Thee. In the name of Jesus, whose love for Thee and for us never fails. Amen.

THURSDAY, JUNE 24, 1982

LOVING, PATIENT, FATHER IN HEAVEN, our Nation is in deep trouble. Responsibility for the remedy rests with the present Government. If those who are now in Congress and the White House do not get it together, there is certainly no alternative.

Eternal God, our Founding Fathers laid their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor on the line at tremendous risk. And many of them paid the ultimate price for their commitment, but they gave us the greatest Republic in history. Surely, present leadership can do no less.

Grant Heavenly Father, to the President and the Congress, the will, at whatever cost, to respond heroically to the present crisis. Give them courage, wisdom, and strength commensurate to the task and free them from fear of the consequences. In the name of Him who made the ultimate sacrifice for us all. Amen.

TUESDAY, JUNE 29, 1982

OUR FATHER WHO ART IN HEAVEN, we worry so much and pray so little. Someone has said facetiously, "Why pray when you can worry?" But in our hearts we know that is not funny. The Bible is filled with encouragement to pray: Abraham, Moses, Joshua, Gideon, and David prayed. The prophets of Israel prayed. Jesus prayed often and taught his disciples to pray. Forgive us Lord for our prayerlessness, which really indicates that we take neither Thee nor the Bible seriously.

We are reminded by the practical and pragmatic Apostle, James, "You have not because you ask not." Help us, Lord, to realize the terrible poverty we impose upon ourselves by failing to pray. Help us to understand that nothing in our lives is too small or unimportant to Thee, that the God who "knows when a sparrow falls" knows all about each of us. Help us to acknowledge our need of Thee, dear Lord. Teach us to pray. In Jesus' name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 30, 1982

OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN, we live so much of our lives as though we were animals. We pay so much attention to the physical, so little to the spiritual. We provide the best food for our bodies and feed our souls on rubbish. We clothe our bodies with fine garments and subject our minds to garbage. We stuff the flesh and starve the spirit, then wonder why there is so little joy, so much depression. We take pills for highs and lows when we could be energized by Thy Holy Spirit and relaxed in Thy gracious love and care.

Help us to realize, dear Lord, that we are God-hungry and nothing else will satisfy. "Thou hast made us for Thyself O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they repose in Thee." Forgive us, kind Father, for indulging the flesh and forsaking the spirit. Renew us to live like children of God, through Jesus Christ, the Lord. Amen.

THURSDAY, JULY 1, 1982

ALMIGHTY GOD, FATHER OF US ALL, we pray for our families which are so often the casualtics of public service. May the Fourth of July recess be a time of reconciliation, renewal, and healing. May relationships between spouses, parents, and children be restored. Help the Senators not to import to their homes the stress and pressure from the Hill. Help them amid speaking schedules and campaigns to reserve adequate time for their loved ones.

Renew spouses in their sacred vows. Remind them of their marriage covenant which is unconditional for life, and that Thou art witness to that covenant. Help husbands to love their wives "as Christ loved His church and gave His life for her." Help parents and children to communicate, to listen, to understand, and to love each other. Gracious Father, fill the next 10 days with special blessing for our families. In Jesus' name. Amen.

MONDAY, JULY 12, 1982

Trust in the Lord with all your heart; lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct your paths.—Proverbs 3: 5, 6.

FATHER IN HEAVEN, Congress returns to unyielding problems: A budget that cannot be touched without hurting many; the demands of extravagant promises made in the past without present resources to meet them; the hard choices between what is right and what is wrong. We have been trying everything but nothing seems to work. We face the bankruptcy of the human wisdom. Give us the grace to admit it.

Deliver the Senate from the emptiness and futility of warmed-over ideologies, schemes and programs which have been tried and found wanting. Deliver us from the false pride of humanism that conceals vulnerability—that refuses to admit human extremity and will not submit to divine adequacy.

Help the Senators to avoid inordinate preoccupation with the election, which substitutes expediency for virtue and integrity and sacrifices the future for the immediate. Give them grace to take risks for the sake of truth and justice. As Thou didst give extraordinary wisdom to King Solomon to govern, give to Thy servants humility to acknowledge their need and grace to receive Your supply. In the name of Him, who is the way, the truth, and the life. Amen.

TUESDAY, JULY 13, 1982

GRACIOUS FATHER IN HEAVEN, our hearts are heavy within us as we contemplate the tragedy and suffering in so many places. We lift our voices to Thee on behalf of the people of Lebanon and within the city of Beirut and for all who suffer agony in the Middle East. We pray, O Lord, that Thou wilt guide the leadership of the nations in the things which make for peace.

We remember with compassion the millions of displaced persons in our Nation and the world who languish in refugee settlements, many of which are little better than concentration camps. We pray for the poor, the persecuted, the oppressed and for all who are victims of injustice. Hasten, O Lord, the day when hate and violence, oppression and injustice will be dissolved in the grace and love and justice of God. In the name and for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 14, 1982

ALMIGHTY GOD, who reigneth in righteousness, who turneth the Godless to destruction, give us ears to hear and minds to heed the words of the Psalmist.

Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away.

Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.

For the Lord knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish. Amen.—Psalm 1.

FRIDAY, JULY 16, 1982

OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN, we thank Thee this morning for the common blessings of life—for eyes to see, ears to hear, hands to touch, feet to walk, lungs to breathe, and hearts to beat. We thank Thee for minds to think, for wills to choose, and for emotions to feel. We thank Thee for that incomparable computer, the brain, and for the central nervous system with its incredible capacity for instantaneous reaction and response. Truly, we are fearfully and wonderfully made.

Forgive us gracious Lord, for the sin of presumption which takes these incalculable gifts for granted and rarely appreciates them until they are inoperative.

We thank Thee, dear Lord, for family, friends, and colleagues. Help us to appreciate them and love them as we will wish we had done if we lost them. In Jesus' name. Amen.

MONDAY, JULY 19, 1982

O God, Thou are my God, I seek Thee, my soul thirsts for Thee; my flesh faints for Thee, as in a dry and weary land where no water is.—Psalm 63: 1.

As a hart longs for flowing streams, so longs my soul for Thee, O God, My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.—Psalm 42: 1 (RSV).

HELP US TO COMPREHEND, GRACIOUS GOD, that we have hunger and thirst for Thee that nothing else can satisfy—that when we forsake Thee, however we may surfeit ourselves with substitutes, our souls starve.

Help us to comprehend the fact that authentic humanness depends upon a close relationship with Thee, that we are most complete as persons when we worship Thee, serve Thee, love Thee.

Forgive us for the subtle idolatry which exchanges the true God for the seductive gods of power, prestige, position, prosperity, or pleasure. Teach us that we find ourselves, know ourselves, by coming to Thee, acknowledging Thee, submitting to Thee. We ask this in the name of the perfect man, Jesus, whose perfection was in His unbroken relationship with Thee. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 21, 1982

OUR FATHER WHO ART IN HEAVEN, we thank Thee for every person in the Senate family. We thank Thee for our diversity—for the distinctiveness of each and the contribution each makes to all.

We thank Thee especially for the hidden ones who labor faithfully and tirelessly with little or no attention, who rarely receive any recognition or commendation.

We thank Thee for the economy of God which makes each person unique and irreplaceable and for the love of God which gives to each person immeasurable value. We are grateful that each person is a divine original and that God makes no duplicates.

Help us to appreciate our need for each other, to respect, honor and love one another however concealed or prominent each one's involvement in the great work of the Senate. In the name of Jesus Christ whose love for all is unconditional and impartial. Amen.

THURSDAY, JULY 22, 1982

LORD GOD OF LOVE, whose love is unconditional, impartial, infinite, and eternal, teach us love. Forgive us in this place of power an influence for our inclination to downgrade love as weak and sentimental. Help us to comprehend that love is the most powerful force in history—that it was love which prompted the most significant event in history, our Lord's sacrifice on a cross.

Thy word declares:

Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not love, I am become as sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not love, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not love, it profiteth me nothing.—I Corinthians 13: 1-3.

Lord God, we need love which overcomes all obstacles and outlasts all things. Teach us love. We ask this in the name of Him who is incarnate love. Amen.

MONDAY, JULY 26, 1982

May we have a moment of silence as we remember the Meese family on this sad day in their lives.

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.—Revelation 4: 8 (RSV).

Worthy art Thou, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for Thou didst create all things, and by Thy will they existed and were created.—Revelation 4: 11 (RSV).

GRACIOUS GOD AND FATHER, the Founders of our Republic understood this fundamental truth and upon it based their conviction of human equality, human rights, and a government whose purpose was to secure these rights and whose authority was derived from the people. Grant us to see, O God that we undermine this foundation of our Government, we, sooner or later, jeopardize the superstructure which was built upon it. As we forsake the root of our national uniqueness, we forfeit the fruit.

Help us to comprehend, dear God, that this is one explanation for the futility of our best human efforts today. We are struggling to preserve the benefits of a belief which we no longer hold to be true. We have smashed the foundation and are striving to prevent the superstructure from collapsing.

Forgive the secularism, the antisupernaturalism which we have exchanged for faith in a Creator God which motivated our Founding Fathers. Restore unto us their beliefs that we may recover the riches of the legacy they transmitted to us before it is too late. We pray this in the name of Him who is the Light of the world. Amen.

TUESDAY, JULY 27, 1982

God of our fathers, we praise Thee for the faith, dedication, courage, and sacrifice of those who conceived this Nation and brought it to birth despite trouble, tragedy, and hostile resistance. We thank Thee for their vision and wisdom which provided a Constitution and political system that continues to work after 200 years and which has generated the strongest free nation in history.

Help the people to comprehend that a government of the people, by the people, and for the people cannot work if the people do not work it. Deliver the people from the illusion that they can elect public servants, abdicate their citizenship responsibility, expect the government to work without them, and blame the elected officials when it does not.

As the election nears, awaken the people to a fresh understanding of the partnership between them and their representatives, and help us Father God to fulfill the dream of our forebears. We ask this in the name of Him who is Lord of the nations. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 28, 1982

"Not alone for mighty empire stretching far o'er land and sea,
Not alone for bounteous harvests, lift we up our hearts to Thee.
Standing in the living present, memory and hope between,
Lord we would with deep thanksgiving, praise Thee most for things unseen.

"Not for battleship and fortress, not for conquests of the sword,
But for conquests of the spirit give we thanks to Thee, O Lord.
For the priceless gift of freedom, for the home, the church, the school,
For the open door to manhood in a land the people rule.

"For the armies of the faithful, souls that passed and left no name;
For the glory that illumines patriot lives of deathless fame;
For our prophets and apostles, loyal to the living word,
For all heroes of the Spirit, give we thanks to Thee, O Lord.

"God of justice, save the people from the clash of race and creed, from the strife of class and faction,
Make our nation free indeed.
Keep her faith in simple manhood strong as when her life began,
Till it find its full fruition in the brotherhood of man."—Amen.

—Rev. William P. Merrill, 1911.

THURSDAY, JULY 29, 1982

OUR HEAVENLY FATHER, let Thy gracious presence be felt in this place today. May every office, every Senator, every staff member, every employee experience Your love and grace today. Let every family, every spouse and child be blessed by Thee today.

Where there is sorrow, let there be joy; where there is despair, hope; where there is weakness, strength; where there is financial difficulty, grant encouragement and confidence; where there is fear, peace; where there is illness, let there be healing; where there is sin, forgiveness.

Gracious God, let everyone who is part of this great Senate family, experience a fresh regenerating touch of Thy power today. We pray in the name of the Saviour. Amen.

FRIDAY, JULY 30, 1982

FATHER GOD, the Senators anticipate another weekend with demands for their time and energy which inevitably compete with the family. Help them Father, to resist pressures which force neglect of the family. We pray for wives who sometime feel like second-class citizens because so many other things seem to be more important. Reason tells them that this is not true but emotionally they experience a sense of low priority on husbands' interests and time.

We pray for youth who feel neglected, whose fathers never seem to have time for them. Protect them against bitterness and cynicism which often generates rebellion in young lives causing them to do crazy things to get attention.

Protect our families, bless them, strengthen them, infuse them with love and affection. In Jesus name, we pray. Amen.

MONDAY, AUGUST 2, 1982

O give thanks unto the Lord; call upon His name: make known His deeds among the people.

Sing unto Him, sing psalms unto Him: talk ye of all His wondrous works.

Glory ye in His holy name: let the heart of them rejoice that seek the Lord.—Psalm 105: 1-3.

FATHER IN HEAVEN, with Labor Day recess, October recess, elections, and imminent adjournment in prospect, help the Senators not to put off what they ought to do individually and corporately. Help them to get done whatever they will wish they had done when the 97th Congress is over. Give them wisdom, and energy, to fulfill their mandate, and the courage not to sacrifice principle for political expediency. May they learn dependence upon Thee and thus be independent of all the forces which vitiate the common good. May they seek to *do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with their God.*—Micah 6: 8. Amen.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 3, 1982

GRACIOUS FATHER IN HEAVEN, we thank Thee for our amazing Nation—for its industry, its productivity, its prosperity. We thank Thee for the abundance which has been lavished upon us as a people. Forgive our inclination to take this abundance for granted. Help us, dear God, not to have to lose it before we appreciate it.

Help us to take seriously our stewardship and to be grateful for the fact we have more than enough of everything. Save us from indifference to the many who never have enough of anything. Deliver us from greed—from the "cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the lust of other things," which Jesus said choke the word of God in our hearts. Liberate us from the relentless pursuit of "more" and give us compassion for the needy, and grace to share with them our abundance.

Loving God, receive our thanks, we pray, in the name of Him whose love is unconditional, impartial and sacrificial. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 4, 1982

SOVEREIGN GOD, LORD OF THE NATIONS, there are moments in history which are cosmic in their implications even though the matter of the moment gives no indication. As has been said, "Great events swing on small hinges." The Senate may face such a moment today. Having debated many hours, the moment of decision now confronts them.

God of our Fathers, our incredible Constitution has served this Republic well for 200 years. Our Founding Fathers leaned heavily upon Thee in bringing it to birth out of costly struggle and sacrifice. Grant that the leadership of this hour will look to Thee no less than their honorable predecessors.

Gracious Lord, architect of history to whom all the future is known, guide the Senators in their final deliberation and decision. Let Thy perfect will be done in this place today. We pray in His name whose life on Earth was the incarnation of Thy will. Amen.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 5, 1982

FATHER GOD, from whom derives all authority, receive our gratitude for the leadership of the Senate. Thank Thee for the leaders of the majority and the minority, for their integrity, their strength, their wisdom, their gentleness, and their skill. As pressures mount over the relentless, unforgiving march of time, give to Thy servants a special dispensation of grace and patience. Brace them against the tensions of controversy, personalities, and demands. Bless their families and keep them in Thy love and care.

As we pray for them, we pray for the Sergeant at Arms, the Secretary of the Senate, and their associates and the leadership of the cloakrooms. Thank Thee for their commitment to heavy responsibility, their resiliency under pressure, and their indispensable skill in implementing Senate business. We pray in the name of Him for whom leadership meant service. Amen.

MONDAY, AUGUST 9, 1982

All power is given unto me in Heaven and in Earth . . . and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.—Matthew 8: 18, 20.

HEAVENLY FATHER, here we are in the place of power—greater power than any other legislative body on Earth. Yet we are essentially powerless. Law after law is passed—nothing changes. We wield our great power, and probably more often than we like to think, impress only ourselves. We wield our power forgetting that we are always only a heartbeat away from total powerlessness.

Great God, help us to understand that Thou art the source of all power, and that only as Thy power works through us do things really change. Deliver us from human pride that deceives and seduces and corrupts mankind, Grant us grace to acknowledge our weakness and submit to Thy sovereign rule in our lives. Let Thy power and love reign in us. In the name of the One whose power was supremely manifested on a cross. Amen.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 10, 1982

There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.—Proverbs 14: 12.

. . . *wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, . . . strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, . . .* .—Matthew 7: 13, 14.

GOD OF TRUTH AND LIGHT AND ORDER, lead us. Thy way is the way of truth. Help us to seek Thy truth. Thy way is the way of light. Help us to seek Thy light. Thy way is the way of order. Help us to seek Thy order. Save us from the way of error, darkness and chaos.

In Thy will is reality—outside Thy will is unreality and illusion. May we choose Thy will for ourselves, our colleagues and peers, our associates and staffs, for all who serve here, and for our families.

Grant to the Senate in the closing weeks of this Congress the way that will lead the people in righteousness and justice. In His name Who is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 11, 1982

Righteousness exalteth a nation . . . .—Proverbs 14: 34.

LORD GOD OF RIGHTEOUSNESS AND JUSTICE, there is in each of us a spirit of self-interest which inclines us to pragmatism as a way of life. We deceive ourselves by rationalizing less than honorable action on the grounds that our purpose is good. Help us to resist the expediency that the end justifies the means. Help us to understand that means are as important to Thee as ends, that a righteous purpose does not sanctify an evil process.

Protect the Senators from the subtlety of self-deception. Give to each wisdom to examine his plans in the light of Thy truth; sensitize the conscience of each to Thy holy will; and grant courage to do what his God-enlightened conscience dictates. For the sake of God and country, we pray. Amen.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 12, 1982

In the words of scripture, ***Husbands love your wives as Christ loved the church and gave Himself for it*** . . . .—Ephesians 5: 25. . . . ***fathers do not frustrate your children*** . . . .—Ephesians 6: 4 (RSV).

FATHER IN HEAVEN, Thy Word is unequivocal in its teaching that the family is the nucleus of society, the basic unit of social order. History teaches that no culture can survive the disintegration of the home; and no unit of society—school, community or church—can replace parents or compensate for failure in the family. Forgive those of us who give family such a low priority.

Gracious God, help the Senate to take seriously the family, to put the family on its agenda. Help it not to perpetuate schedules that are destructive of family life. Help the Senators not to be so busy trying to save the Nation that they let their children go to hell. In the name of Thy Son. Amen.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 13, 1982

FATHER IN HEAVEN, forgive our indifference toward Thee which causes us to presume upon Thy lavish provision. Forgive us for taking for granted common gifts which cannot be bought or earned—the gifts of heart and lungs and bodily organs that function unremittingly; the gifts of sight and hearing, taste and touch. Thank Thee for daily food and comfortable beds which so many do without; for work when so many are unemployed; for friends when so many are lonely and friendless.

Help us, gracious God, to comprehend and accept Thy love which is unconditional, impartial, and eternal. May we realize that there is nothing we can do to cause Thee to love us more—and there is nothing we can do to cause Thee to love us any less. We thank Thee for Thy perfect love; forgive our nonresponse and receive our inexpressible gratitude. We ask this in the name of Him who demonstrated Thy love supremely on a cross. Amen.

MONDAY, AUGUST 16, 1982

Lord, Thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever Thou hadst formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting, Thou art God.—Psalm 90: 1-2 (RSV).

ALMIGHTY GOD, ETERNAL FATHER, make Thy presence felt in this place today. Grant that all who do business here may experience a fresh touch from Thee. As the Senators enter into this very full week, help them to have a perspective which sees the parts in light of the whole. Free them from the tyranny of urgency which makes it impossible to see the forest for the trees. Help them not to allow the transitory to obliterate the transcendent. Give them vision which sees the temporary in light of the permanent, the temporal in light of the eternal.

Guide them to decisions which will honor Thee and bless the people. In Jesus' name. Amen.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 17, 1982

SOVEREIGN LORD OF HISTORY AND THE NATIONS, this promises to be a rough season in the Senate. I pray for the leadership a special measure of Godly grace, wisdom, energy, and patience. Help the Senators that emotion will not conquer reason. Protect them against hot heads and cold hearts. Enable them to possess cool heads and warm hearts.

Gracious Heavenly Father, as they struggle with issues which do not and cannot yield to simplistic resolution, help them to hear one another, to respect each other's convictions, and to seek together what is true and just. Help them to take seriously Thy gracious offer of divine wisdom to any who ask; and may Your name be hallowed, Your kingdom come, and

Your will be done in the Senate as in Heaven. For the sake of Thy kingdom and Thy righteousness. Amen.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 19, 1982

GOD OF ALL WISDOM, ALL POWER AND ALL LOVE, we invoke Thy presence in this place today. Our Nation was born out of struggle. Strong men with strong convictions disagreed. But they prayed, and out of controversy came a great Nation. We know Lord that when two disagree, one is not necessarily right and the other wrong. Both may be wrong—or both may be right; and agreement is most difficult when both sides in an issue are right.

Somehow Almighty God, visit the Senate with Your wisdom and Your power. Make known to us the truth which transcends sides, or positions or views. Lead us to synthesis. Show us Thy will for our Nation at this critical hour as Thou didst guide our forbears.

And gracious Father, infuse this place with Thy love. May it never be forgotten that we are one in purpose seeking the best for our Republic. In the name of Him who was Incarnate Love. Amen.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 20, 1982

FATHER IN HEAVEN, the Senators and their staffs have come through a very difficult period physically and emotionally. Their bodies and minds need refreshing and renewal. Their families need to have time with them and they need time with their families. May the Labor Day recess provide the respite required to prepare them for the work remaining when they return to finish this session.

Some will be busy in their campaigns for reelection. Others will be responding to various requests and needs of their constituents. Give them wisdom in allocating time for their families, rest and play. Some will be traveling. Protect them as they go and return them safely to home and work. We ask this in the name of Him who promises to keep our *going out and coming in from this time forth and forever.*—Psalm 121: 8. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1982

O praise the Lord, all ye nations: praise him, all ye people.

For his merciful kindness is great toward us: and the truth of the Lord endureth forever. Praise ye the Lord.—Psalm 117.

THOU ART WORTHY, O LORD, to receive honor and glory and adoration and worship and praise. Thou dost not need our worship, but we need to worship Thee. Our humanness depends on it and we diminish our humanness when we refuse. It is to the benefit of our Nation to worship Thee. "Blessed is that nation whose God is the Lord."

May we be a worshipful people in deed as well as in word. May our lives honor and exhalt Thee. We love Thee, Lord. Grant that the work done here—the decisions made, the laws passed, and the conduct of our private lives individually and as families will manifest our devotion to Thee. In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1982

LORD GOD ALMIGHTY, God of Abraham, Isaac, Ishmael, and Israel, Sovereign Lord of history, all nations, and all people, release Thy power in the Senate—power that convicts of sin, of selfishness, of greed, of pride, of deceitfulness and dishonesty, of the lust for power, and the abuse of power.

Release Thy grace Lord—grace that forgives and cleanses from all sin, grace that regenerates and renews and recreates, grace that transforms sinners into righteous servants of the Living God.

Release Thy love, Lord—love that dissolves enmity and fear and division, love that warms and illumines and heals, love that unites and strengthens and turns adversaries into brothers and sisters.

Release Thy wisdom, Lord—wisdom that leads to truth and justice and righteousness.

Lord, God Almighty, save us and our Nation from corruption, decay, and disintegration. We pray in the name of the Saviour. Amen.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1982

"OUR FATHER WHO ART IN HEAVEN," help us to acknowledge Thy Fatherhood and trust Thee as Father. "Hallowed be Thy name." Help us to take seriously the glory of Thy name. "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven." Help us to do Thy will and desire Thy Kingdom.

"Give us this day our daily bread." Help us in humility to acknowledge that Thou art the Giver of every good and perfect gift. "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." Help us to be as forgiving to those who oppose us as Thou art in forgiving us.

"Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil." Help us to abhor evil and cleave to righteousness.

"For Thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever." Amen.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1982

FATHER IN HEAVEN, this morning we pray for all the men and women whose tireless, dedicated labors support the Senate in its leadership. We thank Thee for those who serve faithfully at routine tasks without glamor or recognition. Help us never to presume upon their quiet, hidden ministries. Help us to show love and appreciation at every opportunity.

We commend to Thy gracious care and blessing those who maintain buildings and grounds, who repair and clean, who prepare, serve and manage food services. We are grateful for the police on the grounds and in the buildings, for those who provide security at the doors and on the floor. In gratitude we recognize those who work in the document room and library; for the efficient, dependable staffs in Senators' and committee offices. We thank Thee for those in the offices of the Sergeant at Arms, the Secretary of the Senate, those so busily occupied in the cloakrooms, for the Official Reporters of Debates, and those in the Congressional Record office who process so accurately the thousands of words of Senate business daily, and we thank Thee for the members of the Senate Press Corps.

Grant to us all a sense of the importance of each and our need for each other as part of this huge Senate family. In appreciation for each member of the team, may we respect, serve and love each other. In the name of the Servant of servants. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1982

Commit thy works unto the Lord, and thy thoughts shall be established.—Proverbs 16: 3.

GRACIOUS GOD, as Thou has guided the leadership of this Republic through difficult days, so guide those who bear responsibility in public office today. As Thou didst direct our Founding Fathers through the tempestuous issues and explosive differences of colonial days—as Thou didst lead through the deep divisions of the Civil War—so lead us now in the way of unity and peace.

Help us to appreciate the unexcelled tapestry of American life, the diversity that is our heritage. Help us not to demand uniformity which stifles and stagnates, but to seek true unity which is possible only when diversity is respected, appreciated, and honored.

Lead us in the way of righteousness and justice dear God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1982

Thous shalt love the Lord Thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind . . . And thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and prophets.—Matthew 22: 37–40.

FATHER IN HEAVEN, our violent, hostile world is starved for love. Children are starved for love, which is their only real security, and wives are starved for love, because husbands are too busy being successful. Senate staff are starved for love in an atmosphere of competition and struggle for position and power. Senators are starved for love—everybody that gets to them wants something, and they are exploited rather than loved.

And, loving Father, the tragedy is that, in our culture, too often love is considered weakness and is rejected as a matter of policy. Remind us, Lord that the most powerful force in history is love and that love on a cross conquered our greatest enemy, death. In the name of Him Who is Incarnate Love. Amen.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1982

GOD OF ABRAHAM, ISHMAEL, ISAAC, AND ISRAEL, as Jewish people through America and the world anticipate the High Holy Days which celebrate their new year, we pray for the peace of Jerusalem and the Middle East. Grant to the leadership of those peoples the will to peace. Give them transcendent wisdom in their decisions and actions. Help our President, Secretary of State and others involved in the situation to fulfill our Nation's role in establishing peace.

May the prophecy of Micah soon come to pass:

And they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.—Micah 4: 3.

On this 195th birthday of the Constitution of the United States, we thank Thee for this remarkable political document on which our Nation is based. We thank Thee for the radical concept "We the people of the United States in order to form a more perfect union." We thank Thee for the strength and flexibility of the Constitution which still works 200 years after its framing.

Thank Thee, O God. Amen.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1982

Give unto the Lord, O ye mighty, give unto the Lord glory and strength. Give unto the Lord the glory due unto His name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.—Psalm 29: 1, 2.

HOLY LORD GOD, Thy word declares that . . . *there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.*—Romans 13: 1. May it be understood by the rulers of the world that they hold authority by divine appointment. Help the leaders of our Nation to understand that they rule by the good pleasure of God. Help them to realize that they are accountable to Thee as well as to the people—that they will someday stand before Thee to give an account of their stewardship.

Grant to them the grace O Lord, to take their stewardship seriously as servants of the Living God, to seek to know Thy will in their deliberations, and to do it. Let Thy will be done in this place as it is in Heaven. In the name of the Sovereign Lord of history. Amen.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1982

Hear O Israel, the Lord our God is one Lord. And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart; and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children . . . .—Deuteronomy 6: 4–7.

KIND HEAVENLY FATHER, when all is said and done, how we handled our responsibility as husband and fathers will be the measure of our suceess in life. If we succeed as Senators and fail as fathers we have failed. As the family, so goes the Nation—if we lose the family, we cannot save the Nation.

Help us, dear God, to get our priorities straight. Help us to see that our children are not impressed with our ratings in the polls, that we may fool the people, and we may fool ourselves. But we do not fool our children and certainly we do not fool Thee.

Gracious God, show us the way home. In the name of Thy Son, the ever-living One. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1982

LOVING FATHER IN HEAVEN, we thank Thee that Thou hast given a remedy for anxiety . . . . *Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*—Philippians 4: 6–7.

Patient Father, no one who does not work here can possibly comprehend the unforgiving pressure under which the Senate operates: pressures from constituents, from lobbyists, from diverse self-interest groups; corrupting, seductive, destructive pressures of power, position, and prestige; the pressure of having to live in two cities with the travel demands. The awesome pressure of decisions involving nation and world and affecting millions. The relentless pressure of responsibility that will not go away and from which there is never an escape; financial pressure, family pressure, peer pressure.

Teach Thy servants, dear Lord, that they have recourse to Thy love and grace and peace. Cause them to turn to Thee in times of frustation, finding in Thee rest and refreshing. In the name of Him Who said, "Come unto Me and ye who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Amen.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1982

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!—Psalm 133: 1.

Sovereign Lord of the universe, Thou hast declared that Thy purpose for history is to unite all things. As Thou art in the uniting business, help us to see that dissension is contrary to Thy will. We accept the Democratic process which involves controversy, debate and compromise, but deliver us Lord from discord.

In our disagreement keep us from being disagreeable. Keep us humble when we are right, patient, and loving when we are wrong. As the pressure of a loaded agenda with limited time heats emotions, keep us cool in the knowledge that we have common goals however divergent the means we advocate.

Give us grace to love our adversaries, to honor their convictions and support them in their right to be different. Lead us to truth and justice and give us the will to abide by them. In the name of Him who suffered the indignities and cruelties of those for whom he laid down his life. Amen.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1982

It is good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praise unto Thy name, O most High: To shew forth Thy loving kindness in the morning, and Thy faithfulness every night.—Psalm 92: 1, 2.

Loving Lord, we thank Thee for the leadership of the Senate, for the strength and wisdom of Senator Howard Baker, and Senator Robert C. Byrd. As we enter this final week, we pray for them, their families and staffs a special measure of grace. As they have steered this body through rough waters and tempestuous weather these past 2 years, may these next 5 days bring resolution to all the business they deem essential so that they and all the Senators may end this week with the satisfaction of a task well done. In the name of the One who finished the work He had come to do. Amen.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1982

"Our fathers' God, to Thee,
  Author of liberty,
To Thee we sing:
  Long may our land be bright
With freedom's holy light;
  Protect us by Thy might
Great God, our King."

—REV. SAMUEL F. SMITH, 1832.

OUR HEAVENLY FATHER, nobody seems to be happy with our Government today—but neither can any one suggest any other government in the world—or in history—that they would be willing to trade for ours. Forgive us, Lord, for demanding perfect performance from imperfect humans. Help us to appreciate that however our system fails, it is the best there is. Help us also to realize that the God-factor is fundamental to our system, that if we refuse to be "governed by God," we will be ruled by tyrants.

Forgive our cynicism. Deliver us from ingratitude and a critical spirit. Awaken us to the incalculable benefits we enjoy. We pray this in the name of Him Who guided our forefathers to these shores. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1982

LOVING HEAVENLY FATHER, it is so easy for us to forget Thee, to live each day as though Thou are nonexistent. We profess faith, but practice atheism. Many of us were reared in homes where prayer and Bible reading were a daily part of family life. We have memories of Godly fathers and mothers who took Thee seriously and lived accordingly.

But many of us have forgotten, or simply ceased to care. We rarely if ever pray, and then only in a moment of crisis, as we use an escape hatch. Some of us do not even believe in prayer anymore, so why should we bother? Gracious Father, give to those who could not care less or who no longer believe, an awareness of the awful poverty of a prayerless life. Woo them back to Thyself, that they may find in Thee and in prayer the resource indispensable to a quality of life which comes no other way.

We pray in the name of Him who spent much time in prayer to His Heavenly Father. Amen.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1982

ALMIGHTY GOD, we thank Thee that we were created in Your image. We thank Thee for the fundamental freedom—of will—freedom to choose.

Help us to use our freedom wisely. May we choose to serve rather than to be served. May we choose to give rather than receive. May we choose to build rather than destroy—to praise rather than to condemn—to honor rather than demean—to act rather than to procrastinate—to grow rather than spoil—to listen rather than ignore—to strengthen rather than weaken.

May we choose to love rather than to be indifferent or to hate. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, Love Incarnate. Amen.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1982

FATHER IN HEAVEN, as this body disperses, we commend to Thy care and keeping each one and each family. As Thou didst rest from Thy labors, so may they. As Thou hast ordained the family as the foundation of social order, may all families be strengthened and renewed.

We pray for those who face hard work in their campaigns. Insulate them against unfair attacks from opposition and a cynical press and public. Give them wisdom to respond wisely to legitimate issues and patience to endure nonissues which may be used against them. Encourage them when they are discouraged and give them the assurance that they may entrust their destiny to Thee, having done all that is right and proper to inform the people.

We pray for the electorate, that they will take their citizenship seriously and exercise their franchise wisely.

For those who remain to continue the work here, may there be times to relax, to rest, to be renewed personally and with loved ones. We pray this in the name of Him who promised rest to the weary, strength to the weak and unconditional love to all. Amen.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1982

OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN, we thank Thee for the times of refreshing enjoyed with our families—for the safe return of those who traveled—for the recovery of those who were ill and those who had surgery. We thank Thee for those who were returned to the Senate in the election and we commend to Thee those who were not. May they be encouraged in the new tasks to which they are called and may their staffs find satisfactory employment.

Gracious God, grant to the Senators a special dispensation of grace for this extra session. Help them to transcend the ambivalence with which it is viewed—the negative implication of the lameduck designation—and the absence of enthusiasm and anticipation. Give to the leaders, Senator Baker and Senator Byrd, extraordinary wisdom, skill, and patience, to guide the Senate in a productive, significant, and constructive course. We pray this in the name of Him who rules in grace and love. Amen.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1982

LORD GOD OF HOSTS, father of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, of our Lord Jesus Christ and the apostles, sovereign Lord of history—worthy art Thou to receive glory and honor and praise. Be present in this place today, as well as in the offices and homes of the Senators. Help us to be aware of Thy presence and of our accountability to Thee and to the people. Guide the leadership as the agenda for this session evolves—give discernment and agreement—deliver from the tyranny of the urgent so that the really important may be accomplished. May the Senators' achievements during this session vitiate the cynicism about the selfishness of politicians.

We pray for the President of the United States in his strategic visit with our Latin American friends. Keep him in health and strength, anoint him with Godly wisdom, prosper his efforts and enable his safe return home. In the name of Him who "upholds all things by the word of His power." Amen.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1982

GRACIOUS GOD, Sovereign Lord of history and the nations, we pause to express our profound gratitude for the benefits we enjoy in our Republic. Forgive us when we presume upon these inestimable gifts. Help us to realize how rare in the world today and in the history of nations is the freedom we enjoy. Do not let us have to lose it to appreciate it.

Remind us, as our Founding Fathers believed, that liberty is not derived from man's genius in planning and governing, but that it is an endowment of God which governments are instituted to secure; and that when we reject the God who gives human rights, we forfeit the rights which He gives. May we understand that our rights are secure only as we take God seriously.

Father in Heaven, as the pressures of limited time and imminent adjournment compound the stress of legislation, grant to the Senators cool heads, warm hearts, and the ability to complete all they will wish they had done when the 97th Congress is over. In the name of Jesus Christ who finished on a cross the work for which He entered history. Amen.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1982

Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the Lord his God, which made Heaven, and Earth, the sea and all that therein is; which keepeth truth for ever, which executeth judgment for the oppressed.—Psalm 146: 5–7.

THY WORD DECLARES, O LORD, that *Rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil*—that they are *the ministers of God for* *good.*—Romans 13: 3, 4. Let this be true to the Senate, O God, and the leadership of our Nation.

Sovereign Lord, in the confrontation and confusion of conflicting theories and ideologies, lead Thy servants in the way of devine wisdom—in the way of truth and justice and integrity. Help them not to major in minors and play political games that polarize, paralyze and frustrate constructive action. May these fast closing hours of the 97th Congress not be a waste of energy and time and money. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1982

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.—Psalm 23.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1982

Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people he chose for his inheritance . . . . The eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him, on those whose hope is in his unfailing love.—Psalm 33: 12, 18 (NIV).

OUR FATHER WHO ART IN HEAVEN, strengthen the Senators against confusion and indifference and frustration. In this seriously critical hour of our national welfare, help them to resist the pervasive ambivalence and apathy which shrouds this place like fog. Forgive the cynicism, the doubt, the tentativeness that mocks constructive action. Help them to realize they are not alone, that God is present and He can elevate these days to significant achievement. Grant to the Senators, individually and collectively, the will to resist a negative, destructive spirit and help them to make these last hours of the 97th Congress ones to be remembered and honored. We pray this in the name of Him whose wisdom and power and love are available to all who seek Him. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1982

Father in Heaven, I pray against discouragement. Our Government may not be the most efficient in the world, but it is certainly the best. It fails often, but it has made possible the strongest, richest, greatest Nation in the world and probably in all history. We thank Thee for the vision of our Founding Fathers which conceived this Republic.

In a situation where there is much more to be done than there is time to do it, give to the Senate leadership and Members the grace of discernment, understanding, and patience. Guide them so that everything that should be accomplished will be. Infuse them with a sense of love and unity and singleness of purpose. Dissolve hostility and drain it from minds and hearts. Make your gracious presence felt in this Chamber. Direct us, in spite of ourselves if necessary, in Thy way. Let truth and justice prevail for the sake of the common good and the glory of God. In the name of the Lord of Life and the Prince of Peace we pray. Amen.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1982

Father in Heaven, we commend to Thee one of our Official Reporters of Debates, Bill Mohr, in the sudden and unexpected loss of his wife last night.

Our loving Heavenly Father, we pray for all who are hurting. We commend to Thee those who are ill and ask for their rapid, complete recovery. May they experience the healing touch of the "Great Physician." We remember those who are discouraged and frustrated and ask that they be given relief and hope. We pray for those suffering emotional pain that they may be given Thy peace.

As Christmas approaches and troubles are magnified, we ask for Thy gracious intervention in those having financial difficulty—for the unemployed—for fathers and mothers who face the holidays with no provision for their children. There are homes where the family is at war. We ask for reconciliation and the peace of God.

Father in Heaven, as the Senators struggle with stubborn issues, give them wisdom to distinguish between the substantial and the superficial. Help them to use their time with the greatest profit. Let Thy grace and love fill the hearts and the homes of all who are part of this great family. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1982

GRACIOUS FATHER IN HEAVEN, we invoke Thy peace and blessing upon the Senate of the United States. Let Thy love be manifest in our midst. Deliver us from every influence that divides. However much we differ, help us to honor those whose views and commitment conflict with ours. Deepen our appreciation and respect for each other. Make us sensitive to those in need, who are discouraged or depressed. Sweeten our dispositions so that our relationships will be caring and constructive.

In this place where so much position, prestige, and power are concentrated, protect us against their misuse and abuse, their seductive, destructive force. Help us to be invulnerable to the manipulation and finesse which flatters and feeds the ego. Increase our appreciation and gratitude for all the supporting staffs without which the Senate could not function. Bind us together in common purpose and dedication for the people's welfare and Thy glory. In Jesus' name. Amen.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1982

Praise ye the Lord. Sing unto the Lord a new song, His praise in the assembly of the faithful. Let Israel rejoice in his Maker; let the children of Zion be joyful in their King.—Psalm 149: 1, 2 (RSV).

Fear not, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour which is Christ the Lord . . . Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.—Luke 2: 10, 11, 14.

LORD GOD ALMIGHTY, as we celebrate Hanukkah and Christmas, may the profound fact of a God of righteousness, justice, and love be a reality for each of us. May His presence in our hearts and homes fill us with good will toward each other. Grant that these celebrations will not be perfunctory while we close our hearts against Thy grace, compassion, and truth. Help us to be vulnerable to the Holy Spirit, sensitive to others' need and especially thoughtful to our families. Let the light and love of God fill this place. We pray this in the name of the gift of Love, Thy Son, Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1982

GRACIOUS, LOVING GOD, we celebrate world-wide the event that bisected history into B.C. and A.D. At the heart of that cosmic event is love—*God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*—John 3: 16.

We need forgiveness, Lord, for the way we have violated that love. We have ignored it, demeaned it, diminished it, perverted it, and degraded it. We have turned love into weak sentimentality or emotionalism or sex. We have rejected it as irrelevant and immaterial.

Help us, faithful God, to understand that matchless, inexpressible love, given through a babe in a manger. Help us to comprehend that it is unconditional, unremitting, universal, inclusive, and eternal. Help us to realize that it is actually the most powerful force in history, transforming people and empires and civilizations. May we honor Thy love—receive it, submit to it, and share it. We ask this in the name of Him who was Love Incarnate. Amen.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1982

Our Father in Heaven, Hanukkah and Christmas bestow profound significance upon these days. We pray for the peace of Jerusalem as we remember the rebuilding of the temple which represented God's presence among the people in Zion. We pray for peace in the Middle East and throughout the whole Earth as we remember the birth of God's Son, Savior of the World and Prince of Peace.

Gracious Father, these times are especially important to family and home. Grant that the pressures under which the Senators have been placed these past days will not interfere with the excitement of Christmas, which is of greatest meaning for the children. Let there be peace and joy in our homes. Help the Senate to finish its business so that it will not distract from family pleasure or interfere with family plans.

We know, our Father, that loved ones who have died this past year will be deeply missed at family gatherings. May Thy love and grace enhance precious memories with tenderness and gratitude. Be near to each family and fill hearts and homes with rich joy and blessings. We pray in the name of God's gift to the world, the Lord Jesus. Amen.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1982

Father in Heaven, the Senators are very weary in body and mind. The committee, office, and supporting staffs are weary. The responsibilties of Government weigh heavily upon them all, while the promise of a joyful family Christmas languishes. In such circumstances heat tends to transcend light, minds function with less discernment and precision.

Thy Word declares, *God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in the time of trouble.*—Psalm 46: 1. *My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart . . . .*—Psalm 73: 26. *The way of the Lord is strength to the upright . . . .*—Proverbs 10: 29. *He giveth power to the faint, and to them that have no might He increases strength.*—Isaiah 40: 29.

Gracious Father, I pray for Thy direct intervention in the lives of the Senators today in a way that all may know we have been visited by Almighty God. And let us take seriously our Lord's generous invitation. *Come unto me all ye who labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest.*—Matthew 11: 28. In His name we pray.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1982

FATHER IN HEAVEN, as the confusion, tension, and frustration of the past 2 weeks come to a close, we pray that our families will have priority in our interests and schedules. Help the Senators and all who labor here, to unwind gracefully that these next 2 weeks will provide relaxation, rest, and renewal. As the responsibilities of legislation are put aside for a season, may families find new life together. May strained relationships be healed and strengthened and deepened. *May the hearts of fathers be turned to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers.*—Malachi 4: 6.

Above all dear God, crown our family times with fresh assurance of God's love and the eternal significance for each of us of the birth of His Son whose name will be called, *Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.*—Isaiah 9: 6. In the Saviour's name we pray. Amen.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1982

ALMIGHTY GOD, "from Whom, through Whom and to Whom are all things to Whom be glory forever . . ." as the work of legislation begins today, we acknowledge Thy worthiness and our need to worship Thee. Thou art the source of all and the Lord of all. We honor Thee, we magnify Thee, we glorify Thee.

Praise ye the Lord. Praise God in His sanctuary; praise Him in the firmament of His power. Praise Him for His mighty acts; praise Him according to His excellent greatness. Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet; praise Him with the psaltery and harp. Praise Him with the timbrel and dance; praise Him with stringed instruments and organs. Praise Him upon the loud cymbals; praise Him upon the high sounding symbals. Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord.—Psalm 150. Amen.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1982

ALMIGHTY GOD, Sovereign Lord of history, we thank Thee that Thou art a God of things as they are, not as we wish they were. Thou art a God of realism, not of fantasy. Thou hast not given us a faith that is so heavenly minded it is no earthly good. Thou didst sovereignly move Emperor Caesar Augustus, the most powerful man of his day, supreme ruler of Pax Romana, to order a census so Thy Son would be born in Bethlehem, Thy Son, whose birth split history into B.C. and A.D— who was destined to be a king—was not born in a palace, but in a stable. Thou, didst announce this cosmic event, not to the Roman senate, or the civilized elite, but to a handful of shepherds in the field.

Gracious Father, there is nothing about this powerful Senate, collectively or individually, which Thou dost not know. Our Secret thoughts, desires, aspirations, and ambitions are known to Thee. Thou knowest the compounding frustration felt by Senators and their families as Christmas draws near and they are unable to be involved in arrangements that demand the attention of mothers and fathers. Practical, down-to-earth Heavenly Father, manifest Thy power and grace in this place today. Help the Senators to finish the 97th Congress in an honorable way that will please Thee and bless the people. Fill this place with Thy love and peace. Dissolve any lingering enmity between Members as the Senate comes to adjournment. We pray in the name of Him whose sacrificial love includes the least as well as the greatest. Amen.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1982

GRACIOUS, PATIENT GOD, merciful Heavenly Father, we thank Thee for Thy forgiving love. We have worked hard, under great tension of controversy and pressure of time. We have done some things that ought not to have been done and we have failed to do some things we ought to have done, but they cannot be changed now. We have felt some things and said some things about each other that have been less than loving and we pray that they may not be a source of alienation.

In the spirit of this holiday which celebrates love and peace, may we be forgiven and may we forgive and forget, as we anticipate a new Congress, with fresh opportunity to fulfill our promises to the people and the responsibilities mandated by our positions.

We pray for our families who have already suffered more disappointment than they should. Help each of us to give them priority and grant dear God, that the frustrations of these last weeks will have no effect on a joyous family experience. We pray this in the name of Him whose birth brought God's promise of peace. Amen.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1982

ALMIGHTY GOD, Lord of Heaven and Earth, Who "giveth to all life and breath and all things . . ." in whom we "live and move and have our being . . ." we invoke Thy presence upon this final session. Nothing is too big for Thee, nothing is too small for Thee. Thou art the God of the universe and of the atom. The nations are as a "drop in the bucket to Thee," and "a sparrow does not fall to the ground but Thou dost know it."

Thy word makes plain that Thou dost "work in everything for good to them that love Thee and are called according to Thy purpose." We accept that profound reality for our Nation and ourselves. Bless the decisions made here that conform to Thy will and to the common good. Overrule in Thy grace the decisions made here which are contrary to Thy perfect plan and to the welfare of the people.

May Thy love and blessing abide upon the lives and loved ones of every Member of this large Senate family, and may the joy of Christmas infuse all our activities despite the hostility, the frustration, the disappointment, and the exhaustion of these past days. We pray in the name of the one whose birthday we celebrate. Amen.

Prayers
at
Special Events

Prayer in the Senate on the occasion of the attempted assassination of President Reagan

Monday, March 30, 1981

Business was suspended in the Senate for special prayer which was offered by the Honorable John C. Danforth, Senator from Missouri.

The Chaplain was at the hospital where the President had been taken and was encouraged by the leadership of the Senate to remain there.

Mr. DANFORTH. I ask you to join me in three short prayers, one for the President, one for those who were injured with him, and one for our country.

PRAYER FOR THE PRESIDENT

Let us pray, first for the President of the United States.

O Father of mercies and God of all comfort, our only help in time of need. We humbly beseech Thee to behold, visit and relieve Thy servant the President of the United States. Look upon him with the eyes of Thy mercy. Comfort him with Thy goodness. Restore him to health, and grant that he may grow in faith and strength to Thy glory. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

PRAYER FOR JIM BRADY, THOMAS DELAHANTY, AND TIM MC CARTHY

Let us pray for Jim Brady, Thomas Delahanty, and Tim McCarthy.

O merciful God, giver of life and health, Bless we pray Thee Thy servants Jim Brady, Thomas Delahanty, and Tim McCarthy and those who minister to them of Thy healing gifts, that they may be restored to health of body and mind through Jesus Christ our Lord.

PRAYER FOR OUR COUNTRY

Let us pray for our country:

O God, merciful and compassionate, who art ever ready to hear the prayers of those who put their trust in Thee; Graciously harken to us who call upon Thee, and grant us Thy help in this our need; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Prayer in the Senate on the occasion of the attempted assassination of Pope John Paul II

Wednesday, May 13, 1981

(Senate Resolution 133 authorized that business be suspended and a prayer be offered by the chaplain for the life, the health, and the recovery of the His Holiness.)

Let us observe a moment of silent prayer. (Pause)

Our Father in Heaven, our hearts are heavy within us at the news of the attempt on the life of Pope John Paul II who has radiated such confidence and love to the whole world.

We are unspeakably grateful that the attempt failed and that the news is good concerning his condition.

While millions in every nation repair to their churches and synagogues to pray, we in the Senate pause in the midst of our work out of respect and love for this magnificent servant of God. We join the people of the Earth in intercession for a rapid and total recovery.

We pray for long life for this uncommon man who has elevated the hopes and aspirations of all people and who symbolizes the world's deepest longings for peace and unity and love.

Grant to all who serve with him in the Vatican and in the church throughout the Earth every blessings and encouragement.

In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Dedication of the Styles Bridges Room in the Senate Wing of the Capitol

Wednesday, June 24, 1981

INVOCATION

Almighty God, we are grateful for this significant occasion and we ask now Thy blessing upon it for the glory of God and the benefit of this Nation and in fond memory of a great public servant.

DEDICATORY PRAYER AND BENEDICTION

Let us bow together in prayer. Our Heavenly Father, as we dedicate these rooms to the memory of Styles Bridges, we pray that Thou will consecrate these rooms to all that he stood for. We thank Thee for this statesman, this man of integrity and fidelity and honesty, one who was a genius of friendship, who was admired and respected and loved by the Nation, the people of his State, his peers and all who knew him in international relations. And we ask, our Father, that out of these rooms will come an influence befitting his memory. We commend this place to Thee and ask Thy special blessing upon all who come and go, to the glory of God, to the continuation of his memory, and to the benefit of the whole world.

And now may the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. May the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you His peace, now and forever. Amen.

Invocation

at the

Dedication of the James Madison Memorial Hall of The Library of Congress

Friday, November 20, 1981

Almighty God, Sovereign Lord of history, we gather here to dedicate this hall to the name and memory of one of the most influential of the founding leaders, the "Father of the Constitution," James Madison. We thank Thee for the legacy he left us in his strong advocacy for human rights and for his leadership as the fourth President of the United States. We invoke Thy gracious presence on this important occasion and pray that we may be worthy of the dedication and sacrifice of those who set this Nation on its course with such great promise. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Benediction
Joint Meeting of the 97th Congress
January 28, 1982
in Commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of the Birth of Franklin Delano Roosevelt

The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up the light of His countenance upon you and give you His peace, now and in the life everlasting. Amen.

Invocation

at the

U.S. Senate Youth Program Luncheon

1202 Dirksen Senate Office Building

Wednesday, February 3, 1982

Sovereign Lord of history and the nations, we thank Thee for these young people who represent the leadership of the near future and who, with their peers hold promise for our Republic. In a few years the burden of human affairs will be theirs as they serve in Congress, in State, county and city governments, in business, industry and the professions. Some here may be mayors, county supervisors of Governors. Someone here may someday occupy the White House.

Grant, O God, that their time in Washington will be a constructive experience under the influence of the finest and best of our national leadership. Deepen their allegiance, encourage them in their dreams and visions, their aspirations and hopes.

Mindful of the millions who never know the luxury of a full stomach from the cradle to the grave; remembering the homeless refugees, the oppressed and the persecuted, help us to be grateful for our freedom, our comfort, the privilege of this gathering and the good food which we enjoy in such abundance. Help us never to take these common gifts for granted. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, whom lived and loved and died for mankind. Amen.

National Day of Prayer Ceremony

at

The White House

Thursday, May 6, 1982, 3 p.m.

PRAYER

Almighty God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, Lord God of our fathers, we are profoundly grateful for this National Day of Prayer. We pray that it shall not be taken lightly by the people and the churches, that it will be much more than a perfunctory religious observance. We are grateful for the spiritual and moral legacy left us by our founders; for the Judeo-Christian roots from which human rights spring and by which our government systems were designed to function. Holy Father, we ask forgiveness, however and whenever we fail individually and corporately to live out our heritage. Forgive us for indulging oppression, for ignoring the poor, the elderly and the persecuted. Forgive us for serving mammon rather than Thee. Cleanse us and restore us to our God-intended purpose.

We pray for the President and all in authority and for all who rule in other nations. Fill us with a strong desire for peace and the will to make it happen and to do Thy will on Earth as in Heaven. We pray in the name of the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Invocation and Benediction Installation Ceremony for Raymond Mason Taylor

as

Superintendent of Documents of the United States

Monday, May 17, 1982, 4 p.m.

Room 322, Russell Senate Office Building

INVOCATION

Father in Heaven, Raymond Mason Taylor is about to enter a position of great responsibility, supervising the products of the largest printing company in the world. Thy Word declares, "Promotion cometh neither from the east nor the west, but God is the Judge, putting down one, lifting up another." As Thou has lifted Thy servant up to the high position, enable him in Thy wisdom and strength to perform the important task to which he has been called. As he takes his oath, consecrate him, Lord to his devine appointment. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

BENEDICTION

"The Lord bless us and keep us; the Lord make his face to shine upon us and be gracious unto us; the Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon us and give us peace." Amen.

Invocation
Capitol Page School Graduation

Caucus Room, Cannon House Office Building

Monday Evening, June 14, 1982

Gracious God, Father of us all, our hearts are filled with pride and gratitude on this very special occasion. We thank Thee for the pages, for their dedication and hard work; for their readiness to respond when called upon; and I thank Thee personally for their thoughtfulness and kindness.

We are especially grateful for those who are graduating. Thank Thee for the faithful service they have rendered the Congress and for their contribution to the leadership of our Nation. We commend them to Thy gracious care and keeping as they leave us. May their futures be filled with Thy blessing, direction and provision.

We thank Thee for their parents, for their willingness to allow them to be available to the members of the House and Senate. Let Thy presence on this important evening crown this experience with unforgettable significance and pleasure. We ask this in the name of Him whose love knew no limitations. Amen.

Invocation
Ceremony Celebrating the 195th Anniversary of the U.S. Constitution

Caucus Room, Russell Office Building

Friday, September 17, 1982

Sovereign Lord of the nations and of history, we are inexpressably grateful for our Nation and especially for its Founders who committed their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor. We thank Thee for the incredible document they conceived which is our legacy—for the unprecedented statement, "We, the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union . . .". We thank Thee for its breath, its depth, its stability and its amazing flexibility which makes it work today, 195 years later.

We thank Thee for the faith and the faithfulness of our forebears. May we never forsake the faith of our fathers and mothers and may we be faithful to the incalculable legacy they left us.

At a time when thousands starve to death daily and millions never know the luxury of a full stomach, help us never to take for granted the gift of food. We thank Thee for a good breakfast and for those who prepared it and served it. We pray this in the name of the Creator Lord of history. Amen.

Invocation Dinner in Honor of Senator Harry F. Byrd, Jr. by the Rockingham-Harrisonburg Chamber of Commerce and Bridgewater College

at Bridgewater, Virginia

Wednesday, October 27, 1982

Gracious God, Sovereign Lord of history and the nations, as we meet here this evening to honor a great public servant, we invoke Thy presence and blessing on this gathering.

We thank Thee for the monumental influence of Senator Harry F. Byrd, Jr. and that of his father through 50 unparalleled years in the Senate and for their devotion to this State, the Nation and the world. We acknowledge with profound gratitude the uncommon work of Senator Byrd for the common good—for his integrity—his credibility—his dignity—his fidelity in the leadership to which the people of this State called him. We thank Thee for his dedicated, faithful, unimpeachable public service.

We pray for him, for Mrs. Byrd and their family, the richest of divine blessing and grace as their benevolent service continues in new and different ways. Guide them, encourage them, protect them and help them to realize the esteem and affection in which they are held.

We thank Thee for the pleasure of each other's company here. May we enjoy each other, respect each other, love each other. We thank Thee for good food in abundance, for the farmers who produced it, the industry which processed it, and those who prepared it and serve it. May we who always have more than enough of everything remember with compassion and caring those who never have enough of anything. We pray this in the name of our Savior and Lord, whose love and sacrifice was for all people. Amen.

THE CHAPLAIN OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE

98TH CONGRESS, 2D SESSION • SENATE DOCUMENT NO. 98-43

Prayers

OFFERED BY THE CHAPLAIN
OF THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Rev. Richard C. Halverson, D.D.

At the Opening of the Daily Sessions
of the United States Senate
During the 98th Congress
1983-1984

MAY 1, 1984.—Ordered to be printed with an illustration

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
WASHINGTON

NINETY-EIGHTH CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

AT THE SECOND SESSION

Begun and held at the City of Washington on Monday, the twenty-third day of January, one thousand nine hundred and eighty-four.

Senate Resolution 376

Resolved, That there be printed with an appropriate illustration as a Senate document, the prayers by the Reverend Richard C. Halverson, D.D., the Chaplain of the Senate, at the opening of the daily sessions of the Senate during the Ninety-eighth Congress, together with any other prayers offered by him during that period in his official capacity as Chaplain of the Senate; and that there be printed such additional copies not to exceed $1,200 in cost of such document for the use of the Joint Committee on Printing.

SEC. 2. The copy for the document authorized in section 1 shall be prepared under the direction of the Joint Committee on Printing.

DEDICATED

TO

The Majority Leader

THE HONORABLE HOWARD H. BAKER, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

AND

The Minority Leader

THE HONORABLE ROBERT C. BYRD

OF WEST VIRGINIA

In Memoriam

HENRY M. JACKSON

1912–1983

Representative from Washington, January 3, 1941–January 3, 1953

Senator from Washington, January 3, 1953–September 1, 1983

Introduction

by

VICE PRESIDENT GEORGE H.W. BUSH

In commencing Senate proceedings with daily prayer, we verify our nation's strongest commitment: One nation under God.

With prayer as our access to the power of God, we claim the only true proviso for procuring the "liberty and justice for all" that was the goal of our Founding Fathers.

With today's concern about global war and weakening social values, we must center our thinking on a belief beyond finite reason and self-seeking, adhering to the ancient Biblical directive: "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding."

In these challenging prayers by Dr. Richard C. Halverson, we can be further united and empowered by the common bond of our faith.

Foreword

by

SENATOR HOWARD H. BAKER, JR., MAJORITY LEADER

It is particularly appropriate that the final honor of my service as Majority Leader of the United States Senate should be the opportunity to introduce this volume of prayers by the Senate Chaplain, Dr. Richard C. Halverson.

This is the fourth such Foreword I have written, and as I prepare to leave the Senate I feel a special sense of appreciation for the inspiration and solace these daily prayers have afforded me over the years. I know my Senate colleagues concur.

Dr. Halverson is as eloquent and relevant a Chaplain as the Senate has ever had, and his are truly words to treasure. But still more important is the profound spirituality of his prayers—the feeling that he has truly invoked a special blessing on us from a power much greater than our own.

Trusting that this power is eternal and that it works for good in the life of our nation and the world, I know I leave the Senate in very good hands. And if I may offer a small prayer of my own, I pray that God's blessings continue to be showered upon the Senate and all who serve there.

Foreword

by

SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD, MINORITY LEADER

Since before its official foundation, America's quest for justice, liberty, and law has been rooted in a faith in the Eternal God. When Thomas Jefferson stated in the Declaration of Independence that all men had been created equal and endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, he was giving expression to a key concept in the shaping of our Nation—that God is the wellspring of our privileges and duties as American citizens.

One means by which United States Senators since the First Congress have confirmed their ongoing commitment to that ideal has been through the daily convocation of the Senate with prayer. Those prayers, usually offered by the Senate Chaplain, represent the sincere desire of mortal men and women to invite God's scrutiny, guidance, and judgment in their deliberations and in the forging of our country's laws.

Dr. Richard C. Halverson is the latest in the Senate's succession of distinguished chaplains. Since assuming his duties in 1981, Dr. Halverson has shown himself to be a man of deep spiritual conviction and of a broad and humane knowledge of people—those of the Senate community, in particular.

The prayers of Dr. Halverson contained in this volume reflect that profound and sensitive character. Moreover, they mirror the day-to-day hopes, anxieties, struggles, and triumphs that Dr. Halverson has discerned in his ministry on Capitol Hill.

I commend this book of prayers, then, to anyone searching for an understanding of the mind and spirit of the Senate during the Ninety-eighth Congress and, indeed, to all seeking words of inspiration from the heart of a man who knows whereof and to Whom he prays.

Prayers*

OFFERED BY THE CHAPLAIN

At the Opening of the Daily Sessions of the United States Senate

DURING THE NINETY-EIGHTH CONGRESS

1983–1984

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*All Biblical quotations are from the King James version unless otherwise indicated.

First Session

[January 3, 1983—November 18, 1983]

MONDAY, JANUARY 3, 1983

In the words of the psalmist: *Promotion cometh neither from the East, nor from the West, nor from the South. But God is the judge: He putteth down one, and setteth up another.*—Psalm 75: 6, 7.

ALMIGHTY GOD, SOVEREIGN OF HISTORY AND LORD OF THE NATIONS, may the swearing-in ceremony be done in the light of Thy truth, that public servants hold office by divine appointment; and in the awareness that Senators, therefore, are accountable to Thee as well as to the people. May they enter into their responsibilities mindful of Thy word, that . . . *there is no authority but of God, the authorities that be are ordained of God* . . . and that they are *servants of God for good.*—Romans 13: 1, 4.

Gracious Sovereign, consecrate Thy servants to the solemn duty of which Thou hast appointed them in this 98th Congress. May they do their work, remembering what they said to the people to justify their election. May performance coincide with promises. Consecrate them to the pursuit of truth and justice with integrity and honor. Protect them from the arrogance of power, and brace them against the seductive, corruptive forces which surround the powerful. Keep them humble. Grant them an enlightened conscience and the courage to heed it. Remind them daily that they are here to serve, not to be served. We pray this in the name of Him who is the greatest of all and the servant of all. Amen.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 25, 1983

Thus saith the Lord, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches; but let him that glorieth glory in this, that he that understandeth and knoweth Me, that I am the Lord which exercises lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth; for in these things I delight, saith the Lord.—Jeremiah 9: 23, 24.

ALMIGHTY GOD, GOD OF ABRAHAM, ISAAC, AND JACOB—SOVEREIGN OF THE NATIONS, Lord of history, we call upon Thee on behalf of the President of the United States, the Members of the House and Senate. All are aware of the magnitude of the issues which face this Congress as it convenes. We thank Thee for the privilege of beginnings, for the hopes, the dreams, the aspirations, and the anxieties with which this fresh challenge to public service confront us.

Deliver us, Gracious God, from a false pride and misplaced confidence in personal and collective human power which would cause us to tackle critical issues without a realistic sense of our need for divine wisdom, courage, and strength.

Remembering the pressures and emotions in the closing hours of the lameduck session, may harsh words and enmity be dissolved in loving reconciliation and may the words of the Apostle Paul be heeded, *Let all bitterness and wrath be put away from you and be kind one to another.*—Ephesians 4: 31. In the name of Him who loved us unconditionally and who prayed on the cross for the forgiveness of those who put him there. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26, 1983

Praise ye the Lord. Give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endureth forever.—Psalm 106: 1.

MERCIFUL HEAVENLY FATHER, we thank Thee for the successful surgery of Secretary Bill Hildenbrand. We pray for his rapid and complete recovery and for special blessing upon those who stand in the breach during his absence.

God of truth, justice, and righteousness, midst all the other crises confronting us is the crisis of loss of confidence in political leadership. Grant to each Senator the will—the determination—the courage—and the grace to perform in a way that will restore confidence and respect. Lead them to virtue and integrity in their private lives as well as public. Help them to see that private impropriety not only feeds cynicism, but actually militates against the effective performance of the Senate.

May they always choose principle over expediency, selflessness over ego, righteousness over sin, and the common good over special interest. Infuse them with a passion for purity in their personal, family, and public lives in order that the Senate may enjoy the wisdom, strength, and power which comes with moral integrity. In the name of Him whose life was a model of human perfection and love. Amen.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 27, 1983

"GOD WHO GAVE US LIFE GAVE US LIBERTY. Can the liberties of a nation be secure when we have removed a conviction that these liberties are the gift of God?"

Almighty God of our fathers and mothers, these words of Thomas Jefferson, inscribed on his memorial, confront us with a reality which cannot be ignored. His question answers itself. The liberties of a nation cannot be secure when belief in God is abandoned. Help us to see the futility of the struggle to preserve liberty when faith in God is forsaken.

Heavenly Father, awaken us to the simple fact that if we try to govern without God we are a godless government. May we remember that trust in God was not incidental to our Founding Fathers—but that it was fundamental to their vision for our Republic. Grant us the wisdom to understand that to govern without God is to condemn our land to a godless destiny. May our response to Thomas Jefferson be all that he implies in his question. We pray this in the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

MONDAY, JANUARY 31, 1983

God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, God and Father of us all, help us to heed the warning of the prophet Moses as he prepared Israel to enter the promised land:

> *Take heed lest you forget the Lord your God . . . Lest when you have eaten and are full, and have built goodly houses and live in them, and when your herds and flocks multiply, and your silver and gold is multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied, then your heart be lifted up, and you forget the Lord your God . . . and you say in your heart, "My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth!" You shall remember the Lord your God, for it is He who gives the power to get wealth. If you forget the Lord your God and go after other gods and serve them and worship them, I solemnly warn you this day that you shall surely perish!*—Deuteronomy 8: 11–14, 17–20 (RSV).

Open our eyes to see Lord God, that to forget Thee is the way of destruction—that the way of peace—the way of blessing—the way out of economic and social ruin is the way of humility, repentence, faith, and commitment to Thee. In the name of Him whose life, death, and resurrection call us to Thee. Amen.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1983

Loving Heavenly Father, help us not to take for granted the rare and wonderful atmosphere in which we, who are part of the U.S. Senate, labor. We thank Thee for the privilege of working here—for the high morale—the beautiful, untiring support given to the Senators and their staffs, by the subway people, the elevator operators, those who work in food service, the security people, the pages, and the maintenance crews. Grant that their thoughtful, constant kindnesses will be gratefully received and not allowed to feed pride of position or false self-importance.

Gracious, God, may we hear and heed the penetrating indictment of Jesus Christ in His condemnation of religious leaders of the day for their pompous egos: *They bind heavy burdens,* *hard to bear, and lay them on men's shoulders; for they themselves will not move them with their finger. They do all their deeds to be seen by men; and they love the places of honor at feasts. . . . He who is greatest among you shall be your servant; whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.*—Matthew 23: 4–6, 11, 12 (RSV).

Forgive us Lord for presumptuous, prideful attitudes. Keep us humble and grateful. In Jesus' name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1983

O praise the Lord, all ye nations: praise Him, all ye people.

For His merciful kindness is great toward us, and the truth of the Lord endureth forever.—Psalm 117.

ALMIGHTY GOD OF THE NATIONS, we pray for the National Prayer Breakfast to be held tomorrow morning. We ask that Thy Holy Spirit will brood over the place of meeting. As President and Mrs. Reagan are joined by Members of Congress, the Supreme Court, various departments of Government, people of all walks of life from every State in the Union and over 150 countries of the world, let Thy blessing fall upon them.

Gracious Father, gathered in one place will be a microcosm of the world. Guide the program, inspire all who participate, so that the peoples of the world will hear God's voice and feel God's presence at this time of international crisis. May there be a sense of mankind's oneness and a baptism of love which each one present will feel. Infuse their hearts with an irresistible longing for and will to peace. We pray this in the name of the Prince of Peace who came into history to unite all things. Amen.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1983

O give thanks unto the Lord; call upon His name; make known His deeds among the people.—Psalm 105: 1.

ETERNAL GOD OF LIGHT AND LIFE AND WISDOM, Thou hast spoken through the psalmist that Thou art the Lord who will . . . *teach his senators wisdom.*—Psalm 105: 22. We claim that divine promise for all Senators, but especially for the leadership, Senator Baker and Senator Byrd. As they work with their colleagues and staffs to set the course of this 98th Congress, may they be given wisdom beyond their years and experience, to guide the Senate through difficult days ahead.

Thou art the same God who opened the Red Sea for Israel's safe crossing, led them through the wilderness, fed them with bread from Heaven and water from a rock in the desert. In circumstances which seem impossible of solution, may the leadership and all Senators find in the Lord God superhuman wisdom and insight to lead our Republic to strength, truth, righteousness and justice. We ask this to the glory of God and the blessing of all people; in the name of Him who never failed to care for the poor, heal the broken hearted, deliver the captives and set at liberty the bruised. Amen.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1983

It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, to sing praises unto Thy name O most high; to show forth Thy loving-kindness in the morning, and Thy faithfulness every night.—Psalm 92: 1, 2.

ALMIGHTY GOD, the destiny of the people of America rests with those who work in this place. If Members of Congress fail, the people lose their representation and advocacy. The Senate of the United States has incredible power to bless and to curse, to heal and to destroy this Nation, and, for that matter, the world. May the Senators never forget this awesome responsibility, and may they be saved from every selfish and corrupt force within them and without that would cause them to perjure truth and prostitute their power and bring to calamitous proportions the crises which threaten us.

Cleanse them from every perversion of position and power; purify their motives, their intentions, their ambitions, and make them the wise, courageous, selfless, dedicated public servants that these desperate days demand and the people have a right to expect. For Thy glory and the public good, we pray in the name of the Utterly Selfless Servant, Jesus Christ, Amen.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1983

OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN, Thy word declares, *Where there is no vision, the people perish . . . .*—Proverbs 29: 18.

Restore to us the vision of those who invested their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor, that this Republic might endure. Help us to envision a united nation, rich in diversity, abundant in resources, alive to its potential for world leadership, accepting of its responsibility to the hungry, the homeless, the poor, the disinherited, the oppressed, and the persecuted.

Grant, O God, to the Senators a vision of the highest and best for America—one people, beautiful in their diversity—a nation of justice, righteousness, truth, and compassion in which human rights for all are secure. Give to us all, personally and collectively, the will to preserve the finest of American tradition. In Jesus' name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1983

Blessed be the nation whose God is the Lord, the people He chose for His inheritance.—Psalm 33: 12.

ETERNAL GOD, we so easily embrace the form without the substance, we cling to the symbol and sacrifice the reality. Forgive us, Lord, for hollow worship, for failing to take Thee seriously, for pious words without meaning or content, for professing one thing and practicing its contradiction. Forgive prayer which is merely a formality or religious token or empty phrases, as though there were no God to whom we pray or from whom to expect a response.

Patient Lord, Thou didst warn Thy people Israel through the prophet and lawgiver Moses, that they would perish if they forgot the Lord their God. Thomas Jefferson declared, "God who gave us life give us liberty. Can the liberties of a nation be secure when we have removed a conviction that these liberties are the gift of God?" Righteous Sovereign, help us to hear the warning of these two great leaders, and hearing, repent of empty, cheap, meaningless piety. In the name of the God of Israel and His Son, our Saviour. Amen.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1983

"THOU HAST MADE US FOR THYSELF O GOD, and our hearts are restless until they repose in Thee," (St. Augustine), which reminds us, Dear Lord, that we are made for Thee—that we deny our humanness when we deprive ourselves of fellowship with Thee. "Following after hollow gods, they became hollow souls . . . " wrote Jeremiah, the prophet of Israel, thus informing the people that man becomes like the god he worships. Following the true God he becomes God-like—following idols he becomes like his idols. Help us to realize Father-God, that to neglect Thee is to starve our souls and demean ourselves. Quicken our ears to hear Thee, our minds to think Thy thoughts, our hearts to receive Thee, and our wills to obey Thee. In the name of Thy Son we pray. Amen.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1983

"O beautiful for pilgrim feet,
    Whose stern, impassioned stress
A thoroughfare for freedom beat
    Across the wilderness!
America! America!
    God mend thine every flaw,
Confirm thy soul in self control,
    Thy liberty in law!"

—KATHARINE LEE BATES, 1904.

GOD OF OUR FATHERS, as we remember the birthday of the Father of our Country, may we remember the principles for which he stood and the propositions for which he risked his life, his fortune, and his sacred honor. Awaken us to the spiritual and moral roots from which our great and strong Republic sprang. Help us to see that to abandon the root is to forfeit the fruit. May we return to the Judeo-Christian values—the Biblical values—that compelled our forefathers to this land and inspired and motivated them to give us our incredible Nation. Forgive our indifference to those historical realities and help us to take them seriously in this crucial hour. In the name of our Lord and Saviour, we pray. Amen.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1983

Give the king Thy justice, O God, and Thy righteousness to the royal son! May he judge the people with righteousness, and the poor with justice . . . May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor.—Psalm 72: 1, 2, 4 (RSV).

GOD OF RIGHTEOUSNESS AND JUSTICE, there are so many hurting people in the world. We pray for those who are unemployed—for the homeless and the hungry—for the persecuted and the oppressed—for women and children, the elderly and all who are pawns between opposing forces and the victims of power struggles. May we be the advocates of the voiceless, the powerless, the weak, the lonely and rejected and forgotten. Breathe compassion for the needy into our hearts. Make us sensitive and responsive to their plight. Forgive our indifference and hardness of heart. Through Jesus Christ the Lord, we pray. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1983

ALMIGHTY GOD, LORD OF TRUTH AND RIGHTEOUSNESS AND JUSTICE, as bills are drafted and committees respond, grant grace and wisdom to Thy servants in the Senate. May the unity of the Nation dominate their thinking. Deliver from parochialism and partisanship which is divisive. May we take seriously the warning in George Washington's Farewell Address, "against the baneful effect of the spirit of party . . . the common and continual mischiefs of the spirit of the party . . ." its tendency to "distract public councils, enfeeble the public administration, agitate the community with ill found jealousies and false alarms, which kindle the animosity of one party toward another. . . ."

Grant, O God, that present crises will not suffer neglect because of preoccupation with the future election. Free the Senators from every spirit that would divide and demean and destroy. May this body lead the Nation in a demonstration of unity, national purpose, justice, and love. We pray this in the name of the One who loved unconditionally, inclusively and sacrificially. Amen.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1983

GRACIOUS FATHER IN HEAVEN, we have so much for which to be grateful. We thank Thee for breath and life—for health and strength—for clear intellect—the ability to reason and the freedom to choose. We thank Thee for our families, our most precious asset. Help us to honor them—to love them—to be to them all that strengthens enduring family ties. We thank Thee for peers, associates and staffs. May we never presume upon their dedicated, untiring service. Help us never to impose upon them more than body, mind and heart can bear. We thank Thee for the privilege of serving in the Senate. May we never forget that we are here by the suffrage of the people and that behind their choice is the appointment of the One from whom derives all power and authority.

Help us never to forget Thee, Loving God, and the common benefits which Thou hast so uncommonly lavished upon us and our beloved land. Receive our profound gratitude and consecrate us to the supreme destiny to which Thy perfect will calls us. In the name of the Sovereign Lord of History we pray. Amen.

TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 1983

ALMIGHTY GOD OF TRUTH, RIGHTEOUSNESS AND JUSTICE, as the Senate struggles for compromise, let not truth and righteousness and justice be sacrificed. In the words of one of the leaders of this body when he became President, "It is often easier to do right than it is to know what to do." Help the Senators to know what is right and give them the courage to do it. May they be infused with wisdom from above which transcends the best of human wisdom. Implant in their hearts the will for unity and peace and fearlessness, at whatever personal risk, to pursue that course. We pray this in the name of Him who was Incarnate Truth. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 1983

OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN, we are grateful for the effective way Senate procedure operated yesterday. We thank Thee that a bill which threatened to involve long, emotional debate was resolved in a demonstration of reason, good will, and harmony. Thank Thee, Lord, that, despite strong disagreement, generous expressions of honor, which defuse a divisive and destructive spirit, were spoken.

As busyness, pressure and strain increase, grant, dear Lord, that the spirit of love and good will, of unity and honor may persist. Especially do we remember our families in prayer. As calendars demand more and more hours every day, help the Senators to keep faith with prior commitment to spouse and children. Help us to see that nobody wins, whatever the political victory, if marriage and family are sacrificed in the process. We pray this in the name of Him who commanded, *Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother, and cleave unto his wife and they shall be one flesh.*—Genesis 2: 24.

Amen.

MONDAY, MARCH 7, 1983

Praise the Lord. I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart, in the company of the upright . . . . Great are the works of the Lord, studied by all who have pleasure in them. Full of honor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever.—Psalm 111: 1-3 (RSV).

RIGHTEOUS GOD, may the Senators never forget that they are national leaders, accountable to all the people. Keep them from actions, public and private, which will bring reproach upon Government. Remind them that they are examples to the world. Give them grace to conduct their duties in ways that will inspire and encourage qualified men and women to seek public office. May their lives signal to the youth of America that public office is honorable and deserves the best American youth has to offer. In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 1983

FATHER IN HEAVEN, we pray for those in this large Senate family who are hurting. We remember Senator Lautenberg in the death of his beloved sister and especially his mother with her sense of inestimable loss. May the blessing of Thy love and comfort abide upon the entire family. If there be others in our midst who grieve, encourage them with Thy gracious peace and love.

Merciful God, strong men and women are inclined to conceal their pain. They hurt but do not reveal it, lest they impose upon their friends. May there be that about our personal relationships today that will minister to others' needs even if we are uninformed about them. Let Thy love fill their hearts and overflow to those whose lives we touch. Forgive us for being afraid to love as though it were weak or maudlin or mere sentimentality. Give us tough love that cares and forgives and supports and serves. We pray this in the name of Him who loved impartially, unconditionally, and sacrificially all people. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 1983

GRACIOUS FATHER IN HEAVEN, help us to keep our priorities straight. In this center of power, secondary matters have a way of preoccupying our attention and preempting our time. Help us not to take ourselves too seriously, forgetting that we are fallible human beings with many needs. Deliver us from the VIP syndrome which expects or demands preferential treatment—even from family. Keep us aware of our dependence upon those who serve Senators so that they more effectively serve the people—the multitude of faithful men and women inside and outside the building who keep the machinery running smoothly, often under great pressure.

May we remember that usually it is the simple things that are profound—not the complex things which are often just complicated and shallow. Bring us back to fundamentals when we flaunt and float and fantasize in the illusion of importance. Remind us we are servants, desperately dependent on loved ones, each other, our staffs, and especially upon Thee dear God. In the name of Jesus, the Servant of Servants, we pray. Amen.

THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 1983

Come now, and let us reason together, says the Lord. Though your sins are as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow, though they are red like crimson, they shall be like wool.—Isaiah 1: 18 (NAS).

LORD GOD OF ISRAEL, we thank Thee for this remarkable word from the prophet Isaiah. It has been said that guilt is the most corrosive force in life. Forgive us, Lord, for compounding the problem by ignoring Isaiah's reasonable promise and enduring guilt, or trying to talk ourselves out of it, as though there were no remedy.

Deliver us, gracious God, from human pride which refuses to seek forgiveness. Help us to understand that guilt is relentless in its destructive work within, even when we ignore it or try to rationalize it away. We thank Thee for the provision Thou didst make in the sacrifice of Thy Son on a cross for the remission of sin. May we heed Thy word, *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*—I John 1: 9.

In the Redeemer's name, we thank Thee for such generous resource. Amen.

MONDAY, MARCH 14, 1983

Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season, his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.—Psalm 1: 1–3.

WE THANK THEE FATHER-GOD for the Bible, the incredible book, ancient in origin, contemporary in wisdom, justice, and truth. Help us to understand that it is not a book of inflexible rules designed to take the pleasure out of life—but it is like an operator's manual from the factory instructing us how to put it all together. Teach us that it is designed to help us see things as they are, so we may live life as it should be. Help us see that we deprive ourselves of a wealth of resources when we neglect the Bible. For in it and through it, we come to know Thee, Thy love for us, and we learn to know ourselves, our needs, and the provision which Thou hast made for us. Lead us day by day in Thy will. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 1983

GOD OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, JUSTICE AND TRUTH, we need Thee in this place. We need to listen for Thy voice—to heed Thy word—to seek Thy will. We are involved in no military engagements, but there is no peace. We see confrontation and conflict all about us—racial, political, social, male versus female, parent versus child. Most relationships seem adversarial. Our streets are unsafe—apprehension, cynicism, anger, mistrust, and fear pervade our Nation. Millions never have enough to eat. Millions are unemployed. Thousands starve to death daily. The poor, the elderly, the weak, and our youth live under a cloud of hopelessness.

And dear God, this is the only government we have. The people languish for good news, they look to Congress for some reason to hope. Don't let leadership be busy rearranging furniture while the house is burning down. Help us, Lord, humble us, rebuke arrogance, pride, and independence. Unite us. Infuse us with Thy love. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 1983

FATHER IN HEAVEN, I am recalling the story of the little boy, who, upon hearing the clock strike 13, rushed to his mother, crying. "mommie, mommie, it's later than it's ever been before!" Dear God, it is later than it has ever been before and this is not the time for majoring in minors. Help these very busy men and women, who have far more to do than time to do it, find a way to deal with the momentous matters which confront them. Enable them to arrange their priorities so that issues of the first magnitude, upon which hang national and world destiny, may take precedence over parochial and partisan affairs.

Grant them grace and wisdom in handling the awesome decisions for human welfare which rest squarely upon them and cannot be delegated. Help them to find more efficient ways to do their work which will liberate them from the tyranny of the trivia. May this powerful body seek to do Thy will on Earth as it is in Heaven. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

FRIDAY, MARCH 18, 1983

Creator God who *setteth the solitary in families*—Psalm 68: 6, we pray for our homes. In recognition of the family as the foundation of all social order and that no culture can survive its breakdown, may we give the family the priority it deserves. Help us to see that however we may succeed, if we fail with our loved ones, we fail. Grant to all people the will to resist destructive forces which demean family relationships and falsely justify neglect.

GRACIOUS FATHER, bless our families, strengthen our marital relationships—where there is hostility, bring peace; where there is hurt, healing; where there is alienation, reconciliation. Help husbands to *love their wives as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her . . . .*—Ephesians 5: 25. *Help fathers not to frustrate their children, but to love them, find time for them, hear them, and be involved in their needs. Help us to be subject one to another out of reverence for Christ.*—Ephesians 5: 21 (RSV).

In His name we pray. Amen.

MONDAY, MARCH 21, 1983

O Lord our Lord, how excellent is Thy name in all the earth! who hast set Thy glory above the heavens.—Psalm 8: 1

I will praise Thee, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will shew forth all Thy marvellous works. I will be glad and rejoice in Thee: I will sing praise to Thy name, O Thou Most High.—Psalm 9: 1, 2.

WE THANK THEE, FATHER, for the memory of Catherine Marshall Le Sourd, widow of a former Chaplain of the Senate. May Thy comfort and peace be with her loved ones in their loss of this remarkable woman.

Almighty God, our Founding Fathers took Thee seriously. Their speeches, their papers, their actions reveal trust in Thee as the center of their thinking and the foundation for the concepts which gave birth to this Republic. Most of us profess to believe in Thee—many of us live as though belief in Thee makes no difference. We profess faith in God; we live as though we do not. As the world struggles with the relentless threat of Godless government, help us not to be a Godless government. Help us to realize Almighty God, that taking Thee seriously is our greatest resource. Through Jesus Christ, the Lord. Amen.

TUESDAY, MARCH 22, 1983

When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; but when the wicked rule, the people groan.—Proverbs 29: 2.

WE HEAR THIS WISDOM FROM THE BIBLE, SOVEREIGN LORD, and we pray that the leadership of our Nation will govern so that the people rejoice. In the sometimes confusion and contradiction of complicated and conflicting issues, save the Senators from simplistic solutions and grant them and their support staffs wisdom from above. Strengthen them against the temptation to expediency rather than principle. Give them the courage of their convictions when an unpopular decision must be made. May they treasure virtue and integrity which lead to righteous judgments in the confidence that the people will rejoice. In the name of Him who is Truth and Righteousness Incarnate. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 1983

JEHOVAH GOD OF THE COVENANTS OLD AND NEW, as we enter the season of Passover and Easter, may we be mindful of the significant events in history which they celebrate. We praise Thee for the liberation of Israel after long years of bondage. We thank Thee for the incalculable contribution in the family, music, science, finance, the arts and business which Thy people, the Jews, have made to history.

We praise Thee for the gift of Thy Son, Saviour and Lord of History—for His peerless life, His selfless death as the Lamb of God which taketh away the sins of the world. We thank Thee for His victory over death and the grave in resurrection and for the promise of His re-entry into history to reign as King of kings and Lord of lords. In His name we pray. Amen.

THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 1983

ETERNAL GOD, OUR HEAVENLY FATHER, we pray for weary men and women, emotionally drained—experiencing physical fatigue after a very strenuous session. They need rest, relaxation and recreation—and their spouses and children need them. We thank Thee Father for the efficient, thoughtful, cool direction given by the leadership and we pray for them a special dispensation of Thy peace. Help the Senate to finish its work today so the Senators may get to their homes.

Grant that during this recess the Senators will take time to be refreshed in body, mind, and spirit. May it be a time when family relationships are renewed and strengthened. In their sense of accountability to their constituency, help them to remember as well their responsibility for their own health and the welfare of their loved ones. And, Heavenly Father, we include in this prayer all the men and women who give such devoted, untiring service on the Hill. We pray this in the name of Him who invited, "Come unto Me all ye who labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest . . . ." Amen.

TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 1983

Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall. Humpty Dumpty had a great fall. All the king's horses and all the king's men couldn't put Humpty Dumpty together again.

DEAR GOD, IN MERCY AND GRACE, prevent the Senate from being like Humpty Dumpty. Keep it from being so fractured and fragmented that no one will be able to put it together again.

We are grateful, Lord, for our diversity, which is of the essence of unity, but help us not to allow diversity to degenerate into divisiveness. Save the Senate from the forces that would divide and destroy. We pray not for uniformity which is inimical to unity, nor for the elimination of party distinctives or regional, State, and personal differences; but we pray that the Senate will not disintegrate into a hundred individual entities and agendas and private loyalties.

Gracious God, our Republic languishes for unity in this hour of national and world crisis. We were born as a United States—help the Senate to demonstrate the unity of purpose and action implicit in our commonwealth, which is indispensable to the common good. In the name of Jesus, the Reconciler, we pray. Amen.

THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 1983

Where there is no vision, the people perish.—Proverbs 29: 18.

ALMIGHTY GOD, SOVEREIGN LORD OF HISTORY AND THE NATIONS, give to the Senators a vision of their immeasurable potential in unity. Free them from attitudes which short-circuit deliberations and frustrate decisiveness. Imbue them with the spirit of our Founding Fathers who risked lives, fortunes, and sacred honor for the sake of a united people. Help them to realize their almost unlimited power to address crisis, despite their diversity, when they are united in purpose.

Loving Father, infuse them with a passion for truth and justice. Give them grace to devote their energy and intelligence toward consensus and cooperation. Heal raw wounds and vindictive spirits, fill them with love and respect for their peers. With all their legitimate differences, empower them with Thy wisdom. We pray this for the glory of God, for the sake of a united people and a world at peace, in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

TUESDAY, APRIL 12, 1983

GRACIOUS FATHER IN HEAVEN, we thank Thee for the perennial comfort, assurance and hope which the Shepherd Psalm has given to a hundred generations. May its words speak their rich and abiding truth to us today.

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever. Amen.—Psalm 23.

THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 1983

GOD OF ABRAHAM, ISAAC, AND JACOB, OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, THE APOSTLES AND THE CHURCH, having been reminded yesterday of the most vicious violation of human rights in modern history, may we heed the insightful words of Thomas Jefferson: "God who gave us life gave us liberty." Hearing these words, O Lord, may we respond to the profound, penetrating question which Jefferson asked. "Can the liberty of a nation be secure when we have removed a conviction that these liberties are the gift of God?"

Father in Heaven, in a day when Godless forces would deny and destroy human rights, help us to see the futility in struggling to preserve them when we deny, privately and publicly, the God who gave them. Restore to us the convictions of our forefathers: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, ... That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed."

Righteous God, in mercy, enable us to return to our spiritual and moral roots. In the name of Him who is "the Way, the Truth, and the Life." Amen.

FRIDAY, APRIL 15, 1983

OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN, we pray for our families. As the business of the Senate increases in intensity, as pressure builds and emotions rise, as issues are complicated by disagreement and controversy, may the Senators and their staffs take more seriously than ever their obligations to spouses and children. May they refuse to allow their loved ones to be sacrificed on the altar of politics.

Deepen their awareness, that in the economy of God, the family must have priority—the Nation cannot endure disintegration of the home. In recess, grant to the Senators the will to make time for the families, however much else they have to do. If something must be neglected, let it not be their loved ones. Grant that this weekend will be a time of strengthening family ties and personal rest and relaxation as well as work. In the name of Him who said, "Come unto Me all ye who labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest . . . ." Amen.

MONDAY, APRIL 18, 1983

Let us spend a moment in silence remembering those who died in the bombing of the Embassy in Lebanon with all of their loved ones and all of the implications of that situation.

(Moment of silence.)

Lord, Thou has been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever Thou hadst formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting Thou are God.—Psalm 90: 1, 2 (RSV).

We need Thee, Lord. We were made for Thee. Nothing is ever completely right without Thee. We pile up acquisitions until possessions become a burden—yet we never have enough. We move faster and faster—yet we never have enough time. We exhaust ourselves with pleasure—yet we are never really happy. We are satiated—yet never satisfied.

Help us, patient God, to see that our problem is that no matter what we have, it never is enough—if we do not have Thee. We were made to love Thee and to be loved by Thee. We were made to belong to Thee—to serve Thee—to glorify Thee—to enjoy Thee. "Thou hast made us for Thyself, O Lord, and restless are our hearts until they repose in Thee" (St. Augustine). Gracious God, give us grace to acknowledge our need of Thee—to turn to Thee in humility and receive Thee as our all-sufficiency. In His name who gave Himself totally and sacrificially for us. Amen.

TUESDAY, APRIL 19, 1983

Hear the word of the Lord, O house of Jacob, and all the families of the house of Israel. Thus says the Lord: What wrong did your fathers find in Me that they went far from Me, and went after worthlessness, and became worthless?—Jeremiah 2: 4, 5 (RSV). *My people have changed their glory for that which does not profit, says the Lord.*—Jeremiah 2: 11 (RSV).

We are not primitive in our idolatry, Eternal God. We do not make idols of wood and iron and stone and bow down to them. We are very sophisticated in our religion. We worship power and wealth and pleasure and prestige and popularity. And we become like the gods we worship. Power makes us arrogant and manipulative. Wealth makes us selfish and materialistic. Pleasure makes us shallow and superficial. Prestige and popularity make us proud and superior. When we follow "hollow gods we become hollow souls."

Forgive us, Lord, for our idolatry and help us to worship Thee as we were created to do, so that we become like Thee in righteousness, justice and truth. We pray this in the matchless name of Jesus, the Humble Servant of all. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, 1983

FATHER, WE WANT TO THANK THEE for the recovery of Angie Ayers, and we commend to Thee Diane Lee and pray for a special healing for her and for her family.

Lord God of the nation, in gratitude we celebrate this large, wonderful family, the Senate of the United States. We thank Thee for the privilege of being in this place—for the pleasure of being involved together in the significant events that happen here. We thank Thee for our leadership, Senator Baker and Senator Byrd—for their wisdom, strength, and expertise in managing the complex business of the Senate. We thank Thee for the Senators, for their faithfulness to the mandate from and their accountability to the people.

We thank Thee for the dedicated, efficient, tireless efforts of the support staffs—for the Sergeant at Arms, the Secretary of the Senate, the secretaries of majority and minority and their associates. We thank Thee for the Congressional Record staff, the clerks, and parliamentarians, the staffs of Senators and Senate committees. We thank Thee for those who provide security in the buildings and on the grounds. We thank Thee for the pages, the maintenance people, the food service people, the elevator and subway operators. May Thy abundant blessing rest upon them and with their families. We pray in the name of Jesus, Savior and Lord. Amen.

TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 1983

For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south. But God is the judge: He putteth down one, and setteth up another.—Psalm 75: 6, 7.

If God be for us, who can be against us.—Romans 8: 31.

ETERNAL GOD, SOVEREIGN LORD OF HISTORY, may men and women in leadership never forget that they enjoy their authority by virtue of Thy good pleasure—that behind their election by the people lies divine appointment. Grant therefore in Thy grace that they may recognize that their accountability to Thee transcends that to the people. May they seek Thy favor in humility and do their work to the honor and glory of Thy name.

Awaken us to the reality that to govern without God is to be a godless government and a godless government soon loses its concern for human rights, minorities and all people. Help us not ever to forget dear God, that these convictions dominated the thinking of our forebears and are the explanation for our greatness as a Nation. Through Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 1983

LOVING FATHER IN HEAVEN, spring breaks through and reminds us again of things so easily forgotten.

Life in all its power reasserts itself and we are amazed. As flowers bloom, grass turns green again, leaves return to the trees and the fragrance and beauty of spring immerses us in its euphoria.

Forgive us Lord for so easily taking for granted fundamentals. We live as though life were our prerogative. Our hearts beat thousands of times daily pumping life-giving blood throughout our systems, our lungs expand and contract, fueling our systems with oxygen. Our reflexes function automatically, our digestive systems process food intake, building bone and muscle, skin and hair and fingernails. And we take this for granted until illness or disease or tragedy strike. So often, dear God, we have to lose a good thing before we appreciate it. Help us not only to be thankful but to live thankfully.

As Congress anticipates its Joint Session and the President prepares to address it on exceedingly vital issues, may he be given special wisdom and may the people be attentive and responsive. May Thy will be done in America as it is in Heaven. Through Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1983

ETERNAL GOD, I pray today for leadership in the loneliness of decision. When all available facts are in, when the data has been processed as effectively as possible, when counsel has been sought and received, decision is demanded and cannot be delegated.

At such a time of aloneness, may Senators remember that there is One to Whom they may turn for ultimate wisdom and guidance. May they realize that Thou art "closer than hands or feet"—"nearer than breathing"—that if they reach for Thee, they have already gone too far.

May they know gracious God, that Thou art more ready to give insight and direction than they to receive. May they heed the admonition of the Apostle James, *You have not because you ask not.*—James 4: 2. Forbid Lord that they should deprive themselves of Thy gracious enabling. We pray this in the name of Him who is "Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father." Amen.

MONDAY, MAY 2, 1983

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is and is to come . . . . Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for Thou hast created all things, and for Thy pleasure they are and were created.—Revelation 4: 8, 11.

GOD OF CREATION, LORD OF LIFE, we thank Thee that we are alive. There are those who went to sleep last night who did not awaken this morning. We thank Thee that we are here with work to do. There are those who awakened today with no job to go to and no prospect of getting one. We thank Thee that we are whole physically and mentally. There are those who, through some tragedy, have been disabled this past week. We thank Thee for our spouses and children. There are those who have lost loved ones recently. Forgive us Lord for presuming upon life and so seldom thanking Thee for the common benefits which we enjoy so routinely.

We pray for those who are unemployed—for those who have been disabled or who have lost loved ones. Grant to them today Thy peace and comfort. In Jesus' name. Amen.

TUESDAY, MAY 3, 1983

GOD OF ALL COMFORT, we remember in prayer those of our Senate family who are hurting. We pray for Mark Lacovara, his sisters, and their family in the loss of their father. May Thy peace fill their hearts. We are grateful for the good news concerning Diane Lee and commend her to Thy loving care, praying for her rapid and total recovery. For any others who may be experiencing difficulties, grant relief in their situation. Help us to love one another, to care for and be sensitive to one another's needs.

Our Father, we pray for the pages as they approach the end of their school year and graduation. Thank Thee for their efficient and faithful service.

As the Senate takes up the complex and controversial issue of the budget, we pray, Heavenly Father, for special dispensation: Wisdom and patience for the leadership, the chairmen, and members of the committees. Guide the Senators through debate to consensus and resolution. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 4, 1983

LORD GOD OF CREATION, WHO HAST ENDOWED US WITH INALIENABLE RIGHTS, we thank Thee for a government of the people, by the people, and for the people, designed to secure those rights. We thank Thee for the democratic process which makes such a government work. We thank Thee for men and women of strong conviction, willing to struggle through controversy and compromise, seeking the welfare of the people. Give them patience with the process and with each other.

As tensions increase and emotions rise, infuse them with respect and love for each other. Protect them against selfish and seductive forces which would corrupt and exploit the process and abort sound legislation. Heavenly Father, make Thy presence felt in this Chamber and in the office of every Senator and every committee today. May Thy will be done in this place as it is in Heaven. We pray in the name of Him who was Incarnate Truth, Justice, and Righteousness. Amen.

THURSDAY, MAY 5, 1983

National Day of Prayer

Our Father in Heaven, on this day proclaimed by the President of the United States as a National Day of Prayer, we join with millions who will take seriously the purpose for which this day has been set apart. We beseech Thee that Thy Holy Spirit will come upon all who pray with mighty anointing and power. We thank Thee that we are not talking to ourselves when we pray—that we are addressing One who exhorts us to pray, who hears prayer and does something about it.

At a time of national and international crisis, we call upon Thee gracious Father, for a great outpouring of Thy grace upon our land. Convict the churches of hypocrisy and materialism. Turn the hearts of the proud and arrogant to Thyself. Forgive, and purge sin from our lives and quicken us to purity and love. We pray in the name of the One who prayed on the cross and whose sacrifice was for all mankind. Amen.

FRIDAY, MAY 6, 1983

God of truth and justice, in our pragmatic culture it is so easy to sacrifice principle for expediency. At a time when the values endorsed and promulgated by our forebears are not only forsaken but often ridiculed, strengthen the resolve of those in positions of national leadership who take seriously these values. Encourage them in their conviction. Enlighten and sensitize their conscience and give them courage to heed it. Quicken in them the indispensable virtues of integrity, honesty, and purity of heart. Give them Thy wisdom as they process complex issues in which right and wrong are not easily discernible. Brace them against the criticism and pressure of those who demand inadequate solutions based upon simplistic thinking. Grant to those who labor here, Senators, committees and staffs, grace and peace, through Him who is the Servant of all. Amen.

MONDAY, MAY 9, 1983

O God, Thou art my God, early will I seek Thee. My soul thirsteth for Thee, my soul longeth for Thee in a dry and thirsty land . . . to see Thy power and Thy glory.—Psalm 63: 1, 2.

GOD OF LIGHT AND LIFE AND LOVE, receive our worship. Thou dost not need our worship, for Thou art perfect and complete and infinitely self-sufficient. But we need to worship, our true humanness demands it. We do not add to Thee by our worship, but we diminish ourselves when we do not. Worthy art Thou to receive glory and honor, adoration and praise. Let Thy power and Thy glory be manifest in us. In the name of Him in whom dwells all power in Heaven and on Earth. Amen.

TUESDAY, MAY 10, 1983

FATHER IN HEAVEN, GOD OF ALL WISDOM, we invoke Thy presence and blessing upon the Senate today as it struggles with the budget. Grant special wisdom and patience to the chairman as he manages the floor. Guide each Senator as he considers the complex issues involved which are judgmental, rather than ethical or moral.

Thou knowest Lord that there is not a person in the Senate who is not concerned for the elderly, the unemployed, the poor and needy, as well as national defense and a mounting, deficit. Help Thy servants to find their way through all these complications to a solution that is just. Help them to have cool heads and warm hearts, despite all the pressures that converge on them today. We ask this in the name of Him who is Light and Truth. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, 1983

In a moment of silence, our Father, we commend Mrs. Baker to Thy loving care for her complete restoration while she is in the hospital, and pray for Thy peace to fill Senator Baker's heart.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge.—Proverbs 1: 7.

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God . . . and it shall be given him.—James 1: 5.

It would be simple, Heavenly Father, if some were wrong and some were right, but what is the remedy when everyone is right and disagreement persists? The strength of democracy is its weakness. How is disagreement resolved when all are right? The answer is in Thy promise, dear Lord, *I have counsel and sound wisdom . . . by Me kings reign and rulers decree what is just: by Me princes rule and nobles govern the earth.*—Proverbs 8: 14–16.

GRACIOUS GOD, give devine wisdom to Thy servants as they struggle with imponderables and lead them to compromise which is just and righteous. We pray in the name of Him who is the Truth that frees. Amen.

MONDAY, MAY 16, 1983

I will extol Thee, my God, O King; and I will bless Thy name for ever and ever. Every day will I bless Thee; and I will praise Thy name for ever and ever. Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; and His greatness is unsearchable.—Psalm 145: 1, 3.

MERCIFUL GOD, we pray for the Budget Committee as it takes up the heavy, seemingly impossible task before it. Give special wisdom, patience, and grace to the Chairman and each member. Deepen their respect for each other despite strong disagreement. Keep them from personal enmity and alienation as they struggle with convictions that do not easily yield to modification. Guide them through difficult deliberations to a resolution which will commend itself to the Senate and the President. We ask this in the name of Him for whom nothing is impossible. Amen.

TUESDAY, MAY 17, 1983

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God . . . all things were made by Him . . . . —John 1: 1, 3.

ALMIGHTY GOD, WHO SPOKE THE UNIVERSE INTO EXISTENCE, help us, whose business is speech, to appreciate the tremendous power of words—power to edify or demean—power to build up or destroy—power to awaken and inspire or to put to sleep and discourage. Thy Word reminds us that . . . *the tongue is a little member and boasts of great things. How great a forest is set afire by a small fire! and the tongue is a fire . . . .* —St. James 3: 4–6 (RSV).

Grant us grace, dear Lord, to control our tongues, to "speak the truth in love," to use words to bless and not curse. In the name of Him who was the Word Incarnate we pray. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 1983

GRACIOUS GOD, the Bible declares that *Without a vision, the people perish.*—Proverbs 29: 18. We need a vision for the Senate, Lord. Give us a vision for unity—for a Senate that proves its detractors wrong—a Senate that demonstrates to the world all that our Founding Fathers dreamed when they adopted the Constitution—a Senate that dissolves cynicism among the people, the press, and within its own membership.

Give the Senate a vision for peace—for righteousness—for justice—for truth, a vision which is a fulfillment of the highest, finest, and best aspirations of a free people. Help the Senators to give God room in their business, the openness to hear the voice of the Lord in this critical, tense hour. In Thy name and for Thy sake and the Nation's we pray. Amen.

FRIDAY, MAY 20, 1983

FATHER IN HEAVEN, strong men and women are rarely free to reveal their weakness or vulnerability. It is not acceptable in our sophisticated culture—certainly not in a powerful body such as the Senate of the United States. Nevertheless, Lord, we are weak—we are inadequate—we are vulnerable. Forgive us for concealing our need behind an armor of invincibility. Help us to see that such armor not only covers up the need inside, but also prevents love and care from the outside to get in.

Deliver us, Dear Lord, from hypocrisy and pride that would leave us alone in our weakness. Give us the humility that is free to acknowledge need and receive the support which friends want to give and which Thou art so ready and willing to supply.

Merciful Father, yesterday, the Senate passed a budget that no one is really satisfied with. As the Senators move on to other business, help them find resolution that is truly responsive to reality. If there be alienation between Senators or between the Senate and the President, we pray for healing and reconciliation. Father God, may Thy kingdom come and Thy will be done on Earth, as it is in Heaven. In the name of Him who is the loving Reconciler. Amen.

MONDAY, MAY 23, 1983

I will extol Thee, my God, O King; and I will bless Thy name for ever and ever. Every day will I bless Thee; and I will praise Thy name for ever and ever. Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; and His greatness is unsearchable.—Psalm 145: 1–3.

THOU ART WORTHY TO RECEIVE OUR PRAISE O LORD and we are edified when we praise Thee. Thou are deserving of our worship and adoration and we enrich our humanness when we magnify Thy name. We demean ourselves when we refuse to acknowledge Thee; for humanity has value only as the crowning glory of Thy creation. We praise Thee, we honor Thee, we glorify Thee. Be exalted in our hearts and in our homes and in our offices today. Praise be to God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. In the name of Him in whom dwells all the fullness of God. Amen.

TUESDAY, MAY 24, 1983

INFINITE, ETERNAL GOD, the Senate confronts a task profoundly complex, challenging the best of human ingenuity and resources. The issues are virtually impossible of solution: Provide for the welfare of the poor, the oppressed, the elderly, the disadvantaged, the unemployed; respond to sensitive international relations; see to an adequate national defense; prevent inflation; control the national debt; balance the budget. And they face these imponderables under the pressure of a citizenry who are impatient for measurable results plus conflicting special interests which clamor for attention.

Lord God, this is beyond human comprehension let alone human solution. Grant to Thy servants the wisdom of God and the power of God as they face these inexorable responsibilities. Help them to believe that with God all things are possible and that in His light and truth they will find the way. We pray this in the name of Him who has all power in Heaven and on Earth. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 25, 1983

FATHER IN HEAVEN, those of us who were present yesterday, who were privileged to see, hear, and feel the opening conversation between the majority and the minority leaders, praise and thank Thee for this remarkable evidence of the strength of the Senate and our Republic. We thank Thee for the honor given Senator Byrd for which he is so eminently worthy. We thank Thee for the comments of Senator Baker in his response to this honor—for the respect, the admiration, and the affection expressed in their brief exchange. Gracious Father, grant that that spirit may permeate this body of strong men and women. With all their differences personally, geographically, and politically, may their admiration, respect, and affection for one another deepen and demonstrate to the world the unity in diversity which is the hallmark of America's greatness. In the name of Him whose unconditional, universal love binds us all together. Amen.

THURSDAY, MAY 26, 1983

MEMORIAL DAY PRAYER

GRACIOUS FATHER IN HEAVEN, in anticipation of the Memorial Day recess, we remember with gratitude those who have given their lives for our Nation. May we never forget their sacrifice and may we order our lives to be worthy of it. We remember the Navy officer killed in El Salvador last night and commend his loved ones to Thy comfort and peace.

We have so much for which to be thankful Dear God. We thank Thee for Thyself, for Thy love, and grace, and faithfulness. We thank Thee for life and health—for daily provision and the common benefits which Thou hast granted. We who always have more than enough of everything remember with compassion those who never have enough of anything. We thank Thee for our families and the opportunity to be together during recess. May this be a time of deepening and strengthening family relationships. We thank Thee for each other, for the privilege of laboring together in this place and commend one another to Thee during our separation. We pray for those who travel that they may do so in safety. Grant Father that this recess will be an opportunity for rest, relaxation, and personal renewal. In Jesus' name. Amen.

MONDAY, JUNE 6, 1983

In Thy strength the king rejoices, O Lord; and in Thy help how greatly he exults! Thou hast given him his heart's desire, and hast not withheld the request of his lips, for Thou dost meet him with goodly blessings . . . . —Psalm 21: 1, 2 (RSV).

LORD GOD OF ISRAEL AND THE CHURCH, help the leadership of our Nation to understand how it pleases Thee to bestow goodly blessings upon those in authority. Thou dost not withhold the requests of their lips, but the trouble is that they do not ask. Somehow Dear God, in Thy grace, help the Senators to humble themselves enough before Thee to ask for divine wisdom and strength for the heavy responsibility which lies before them. Help them to make God-room in their thinking. Liberate them from pride which refuses to acknowledge need of Thee. Remind them that they are not superhuman, but have all the frailty, vulnerability and sin native to humanness. Help them to open their minds to Thee—to seek Thee with all their hearts. In the name of Him who has all power. Amen.

TUESDAY, JUNE 7, 1983

ALMIGHTY GOD, SOVEREIGN LORD OF THE UNIVERSE, we have taken seriously order in the physical realm and have advanced scientifically and technologically beyond the wildest dreams of our forebears. Our finest minds have devoted themselves to explore physical laws in obedience to which they have fashioned incredible progress.

Meanwhile we have ignored as a matter of indifference the inviolate spiritual and moral order. As a result we have become technological giants and spiritual and moral adolescents, and the supreme product of scientific progress now threatens our survival. We are like siblings in a nursery playing with time bombs.

Awaken us Lord before it is too late. Awaken us to the truth about Thyself—our need of Thee—and the consummate danger in continuing to neglect moral-spiritual order. Help us to take seriously Thy law which frees our spirits, brings them under Thy control, and makes us masters rather than victims of our destinies. We ask this in the name of the Lord of life and death. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 1983

GRACIOUS FATHER IN HEAVEN, we pray today for the Senate Press Corps. Thank Thee for men and women devoted to the business of news. Thank Thee for their faithful exercise of tremendous responsibility to the people. Recognizing the adversarial relationship between them and those in public life, we pray that that relationship will not be allowed to degenerate so that they become enemies rather than adversaries.

We thank Thee, dear Lord, for their hard work, often under difficult and sometimes oppressive circumstances. Give them special grace when they face resistance or antagonism while they are simply doing their duty. Strengthen them against carping criticism so common to our culture. When they are blamed undeservedly, give them grace to forgive their detractors. Help them to be objective and fair and deliver them from destructive motivation as they struggle with the delicate balance between fact and opinions. Help them always to remember how totally destructive and irretrievable words can be once they are spoken or printed. Bless them, we pray, in the name of Him who was the Word made Flesh. Amen.

FRIDAY, JUNE 10, 1983

GOD OF GRACE AND MERCY, in a society where many are starved for love, in which many suffer and some die from acute loneliness, help us to recover love. Forgive us for cheapening love by reducing it to sentimentalism or sex. Help us to comprehend real love—selfless love—tough love which does not collapse when rejected or mistreated. Help us to remember a man on a cross who prayed for forgiveness for those who put Him there while they taunted Him in His agony.

Gracious God, teach us true love which respects the value of each human being, honors each one's personal dignity, desires the very best for each. Help us to be sensitive to those who hurt, compassionate to those who suffer, responsive to those in need. Teach us to care—to be courteous—to be thoughtful—to be kindly affectioned one to another. This we ask in the name of Him whose sacrificial love was universal, embracing all people, everywhere. Amen.

MONDAY, JUNE 13, 1983

O come let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise! For the Lord is a great God.—Psalm 95: 1-3.

FATHER GOD, HOW DO WE THANK THEE as we ought for Thy goodness to us? We slept in comfortable beds last night between clean sheets; millions in our city and cities of the world slept on the streets. We awakened to a good breakfast this morning, with promise of more than enough to eat for lunch and dinner. Millions had no breakfast this morning, nor yesterday or the day before or the day before that—and they have no prospect of lunch or dinner in the foreseeable future. We live in comfortable homes, millions are homeless in refugee camps or worse.

Dear God, forgive us for ever complaining, for never thanking Thee, for behaving as though we deserve these benefits in contrast to those who are without. Don't let us have to lose these blessings to appreciate them. We pray in the name of Him whose heart was with the hungry, the homeless, the naked, the oppressed. Amen.

TUESDAY, JUNE 14, 1983

FLAG DAY

"Oh, say, can you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last
gleaming?
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, through the
perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly
streaming?
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air.
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still
there.
Oh, say, does that Star Spangled Banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free, and the home of the brave?
—FRANCIS SCOTT KEY.

SOVEREIGN GOD, we thank Thee for all that our flag represents to our Nation and the world. Forgive us when we have, as a nation or as individuals, failed to live up to its promise. Give us grace to rectify such failure and to be true to that for which it stands. Help us never to deify the flag or equate our Nation with the Kingdom of God. May we remember that to Thee alone belongs our ultimate allegiance and may that allegiance constrain us to responsible citizenship. We pray this in the name of the Lord of History. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15, 1983

FATHER IN HEAVEN, inasmuch as Thou knowest all things, hiding from Thee is an exercise in futility. Give us the wisdom to understand this. Thou knowest our thoughts before we think them, our words before we speak them. Trying to deceive Thee, we deceive only ourselves, and deprive ourselves of Thy gracious kindness.

What a waste Father, that we should bear a load of corrosive guilt when Thou art so ready to forgive and renew if we confess our sin and need. Help us to see that there is nothing we can do to make Thee love us more and there is nothing we can do to make Thee love us less. Help us to open our hearts, acknowledge our need, and receive your unconditional, forgiving, renewing love. In the name of Him who submitted to the cross in demonstration of that love and forgiveness. Amen.

MONDAY, JUNE 20, 1983

Praise the Lord! Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, who greatly delights in His commandments.—Psalm 112: 1 (RSV).

LORD GOD OF HEAVEN AND EARTH, all powerful, all wise, knowing all things past, present, and future, we pray for Thy guidance in all Senate deliberations. Thou art acquainted with all our ways. For Thee no plans are classified. Lead us in a way that corresponds to reality. Spare us from wasted effort, from unfruitful ideas and unproductive labor. Keep us from spinning our wheels, from jousting at windmills, from shadow boxing, from following delusive dreams.

Free us dear Lord, from human pride which refuses to submit to Thee, which will not seek Thy wisdom, which stubbornly pursues futility. Gracious God, whose ways are perfect, forgive us for playing God and lead us in the way of everlasting truth and light. In the name of Him who is the Light of the World we pray. Amen.

TUESDAY, JUNE 21, 1983

GOD OF TRUTH AND LIGHT, last night 37 fine young men and women distinguished themselves by graduating from the Capitol Page School. We honor them in this milestone of their lives and they honor us by their distinctive achievement. We thank Thee for them and all the pages, for their hard work, their dedicated service to Members of the Senate and House. We thank Thee for the beauty of their lives, for their infectious spirits. We thank Thee for the privilege of knowing them and serving with them. We thank Thee for their parents who loaned them to Congress. May Thy bountiful blessing rest upon these young people, their families and their futures.

Thank Thee Father for Principal Hoffman, for the administration and faculty of the Page School. May they enjoy satisfaction in the considerable investment they have made in many young lives who have come under their influence.

Gracious Father, be with Stuart Balderson as he enters surgery in this hour and with Mark Herath who will undergo surgery tomorrow. May their recovery be rapid and complete. In the name of Him who is Incarnate Love, we pray. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22, 1983

OUR FATHER, we join in lifting up to Thee in prayer the Pope. We pray for his protection, that You will gird him about and bless him as he blesses not only Poland but the world.

We pray for our beloved brother, Peter Mills, M.P., who has requested prayer as he opens Parliament with a speech at this very hour.

"Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

Father of all wisdom, in Thy will is the way of order. Outside Thy will is disorder and chaos. In Thy will is the way of wisdom. Outside Thy will is the way of folly. To obey Thy will is the way of reason. To reject Thy will is irrational. In Thy will is the way of meaning. Outside Thy will is meaninglessness. To be in Thy will is to be directed. To refuse Thy will is to drift or be driven and obsessive. In Thy will is fulfillment. Outside Thy will is frustration and futility.

Thy will be done Father, in our hearts and homes and jobs, as it is in Heaven. In the name of Him whose perfect life was the perfect model of Thy will. Amen.

THURSDAY, JUNE 23, 1983

GRACIOUS FATHER IN HEAVEN, we pray for those among us who are hurting. We commend to Thy gracious love and care those who are ill, who are discouraged, who are angry or frustrated, or exhausted, or who feel rejected and ignored. We pray for staff who feel manipulated, or put down, or discriminated against.

We pray for our families who are hurting; for children who feel they are less important to their fathers than the Senate; for wives who suffer protracted loneliness or who are made to feel they are aliens in their husbands' offices; for fathers stretched between duty on the Hill and love in the home. We pray for those having financial difficulty or who are suffering other kinds of stress and pressure. And Father, we remember the families of the two journalists who were killed in Honduras. Comfort them with Thy peace and love. Dear Father, touch all who hurt with Thy gracious comfort, peace, and healing. In the name of the Great Physician, we pray. Amen.

MONDAY, JUNE 27, 1983

Praise the Lord! O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His steadfast love endures forever.—Psalm 106: 1.

MERCIFUL GOD, Thou hast blessed us and our land with incalculable abundance. We enjoy resources as no other nation, we enjoy freedom as no other people. In a world in which most people never have enough of anything, we always have more than enough of everything. Forgive us for our ingratitude, our prodigality and waste.

As the Apostle Paul declared . . . *although they knew God they do not honor Him as God or give thanks to Him* . . . as a result of which *they became futile in their thinking and their senseless minds were darkened.*—Romans 1: 20, 21 (RSV). Help us Lord to appreciate the unprecedented benefits we enjoy, to be thankful and live thankfully. In Jesus' name. Amen.

TUESDAY, JUNE 28, 1983

ETERNAL GOD, *who made the world and all things therein . . . Lord of heaven and earth . . . who giveth to all life and breath and all things . . .* —Acts 17: 24, 25, we need Thy counsel as the Senate considers a very heavy matter. Our forebears believed that Thou art the Lord of Life: "We hold these truths to be self evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty . . ." Jefferson understood this when he said, "God who gave us life, gave us liberty."

Now Lord, the Senate confronts head-on the basic issues of life and liberty. Make Thy presence felt here and let Thy will be done in the Senate today. We pray in the name of Him who is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29, 1983

OMNIPOTENT, ETERNAL GOD, this is a place of power. Where there is power, there is pressure. Where there is pressure, there is friction. Where there is friction, there is heat. Under such pressure the Senators serve, added to which is personal tension between conscience and demands of public and private interests and political destiny. And always there is the tyranny of the urgency. In the vortex of all this the leadership works. Dear God, bless our leaders. Grant them special wisdom, strength and patience.

Father in Heaven, in the midst of the stress, grant Senators Thy peace. Make them wise as they face choices that are rarely either/or, all right or all wrong, all good or all bad. Give them wisdom and sensitivity and the courage to act as conscience dictates and peace in their hearts once the decisive moment is over. May this recess be family time as well as work. We pray in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

MONDAY, JULY 11, 1983

Unless the Lord build the house, those who built it labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.—Psalm 127: 1 (RSV).

WE THANK THEE GRACIOUS LORD for the benefits enjoyed during recess: the time with our families, rest and relaxation, contacts with the people, and the work accomplished in office here and at home. We pray Thy peace and comfort for those working with Senator Melcher who suffered the tragedy in his home office.

Now the Senate faces a demanding schedule. Help us Lord to order our priorities rightly. Deliver us from the futility of lost causes and bankrupt ideas. Save us Lord from thinking we are thinking when all we are doing is rearranging our prejudices. Help us to think originally, creatively, constructively. Lord God, let Thy will be done in hearts and homes and offices. We pray in the name of Him whose human perfection lay in obedience to Thee. Amen.

TUESDAY, JULY 12, 1983

RIGHTEOUS GOD OF WISDOM, TRUTH AND POWER, grant to the Senators grace to measure up to the challenge which confronts our Nation and the world. Give to them and their hardworking staffs special wisdom as they process confusing information regarding Central America and the Middle East. Help them sort out conflicting economic and sociological theories as they set the Nation on course which is responsive to the many needs and demands of the poor, the elderly, the unemployed and the special interests which clamor for attention. Lead us all, Lord, in the way of truth, righteousness, and justice. We pray in the name of Him who is Truth and Light Incarnate. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 13, 1983

GOD OF PEACE, the world languishes for peace, yet that which is universally desired seems out of reach. We want peace, but we make war—in our families, between spouses, parents, and children. We make war in industry, between labor and management. We make war between races, between colleagues and peers, even among friends. Our courts are clogged with litigation—yet we profess too long for peace.

God of Judgment, may we hear the word of Thy servant, James: *What causes wars, and what causes fightings among you? Is it not your passions that are at war in your members? You* *desire and do not have, so you kill. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and wage war.*—James 4: 1, 2.

Patient, long suffering Father, give us the will to peace in our hearts, in our homes, and everywhere. Help us to hear the word of Jesus: *Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.*—Matthew 5: 9. In His name we pray. Amen.

THURSDAY, JULY 14, 1983

FATHER IN HEAVEN, the week following recess is always difficult, as we adjust back to a demanding schedule after having had some rest, relaxation, travel, and family time. Compounding this is the very complex issue of national defense about which there are as many views, positions and agendas, as there are people. Give to each Senator and his staff wisdom and energy to withstand these pressures. Give to the leadership extraordinary wisdom, patience, and endurance. Manifest Thyself to us, Father, in truth and power. Lead the Senate to a righteous resolution of this critical issue. In the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

FRIDAY, JULY 15, 1983

DEAR GOD, help the Senate to comprehend its potential: One hundred intelligent, reasonable, thoughtful, strong, gentle people, each rich in credentials. Individually each is a rational person but somehow in the chemistry of the body very irrational things happen, its benign chemicals, which when mixed, cause an explosion; or explosive chemicals, when mixed, neutralize each other.

One hundred well-qualified people, a symphony orchestra capable of producing a symphony but sounding much of the time like they are tuning up for a concert.

Help them, Lord, to find their harmony, so together they can make beautiful music to bless the Nation and the world. In the name of One whose mission was to unite all peoples. Amen.

SATURDAY, JULY 16, 1983

GOD OF ABRAHAM, ISSAC, AND ISRAEL, GOD OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, the apostles and the church, the Senate meets this morning midst compounding frustration: Family pleasure postponed, important trips canceled, many plans aborted. No one is happy about this, least of all the leadership. But, dear Lord, Thou dost often turn disappointment into significant achievement. Thy word declares, *God works in everything for good to those who love Him and are called according to His purpose.*—Romans 8: 28 (RSV).

If man can recycle junk and transform it to useful purpose, certainly Thou, O God, can transform disappointment and frustration into very special blessing. Surprise the Senate today Lord, with Thy peace and grace and love. Make this a day which all who are disappointed will remember with profound gratitude as one of significant achievement. We pray this in the name of Him who was a model of tranquillity midst the worst possible circumstances. Amen.

MONDAY, JULY 18, 1983

Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the Lord his God: which made heaven, and earth, the sea, and all that therein is—which keepeth truth forever—which executeth judgment for the oppressed . . . .—Psalm 146: 5–7.

ALMIGHTY GOD OF ALL PEOPLES AND NATIONS, as the 25th observance of Captive Nations Week is commemorated today, we pray for the millions in the world who are oppressed, persecuted, and denied the freedom which we enjoy in our Republic. Help us never to take for granted our freedoms, nor forget the God who gives them. Remind us of the faith and vision of our forebears who believed, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights . . . . That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed." (Declaration of Independence).

Merciful God, may we realize that we forfeit our freedoms, if we deny the God who gives them. In the name of Him who entered history to set free all who are oppressed and gave His life on the cross to accomplish this. Amen.

TUESDAY, JULY 19, 1983

GOD OF TRUTH AND WISDOM, our world suffers from the knowledge explosion which is fragmenting our society. There is so much to know, it is impossible for anyone to know everything on any single subject. Hence, specialists in one discipline are isolated from specialists in other disciplines.

And Father, nowhere is this phenomenon more apparent than in the Senate. We are overwhelmed with a glut of information. Like an avalanche, data inundates the Senate and its committees, so that however long and hard staffs work and Senators try to process the material, they face an impossible task which would challenge the most sophisticated computers.

Gracious Father, give all who are involved in this information overkill Thy wisdom and discernment. In the name of Him who is Truth. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 20, 1983

Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.—Psalm 127: 1 (RSV).

SOVEREIGN LORD, no individual or group of individuals take more seriously national security than the Senate. Thou hast given us minds with the ability to reason, reflect and remember, and Thou dost expect us to use our intellectual powers to work on national defense in all its complexity.

But the history of Thy people, Lord, indicates that often, Thou hast been their most secure defense, whether it was Moses and the Pharaoh, Joshua at Jericho, Gideon and his tiny army of 300, or David and Goliath.

We are not in danger, dear God, of trusting Thee to the neglect of a rational approach to defense, but we may imperil our security by trusting our own ingenuity to the neglect of a reasonable faith in Thee. Having done our best collective thinking, gracious God, may we not be guilty of indifference to our dependence upon Thee. In the name of Him whose triumph in history in certain. Amen.

FRIDAY, JULY 22, 1983

FATHER IN HEAVEN, in a week like this with its pressure, its tensions, its anger, behind the scenes many have sacrificed and labored long hours under great stress. We thank Thee for the dedicated support of the staffs in the offices of the Secretary, the Sergeant at Arms, the cloakrooms, and the Congressional Record. We thank Thee for the productivity and efficiency of the committee experts and Senators' staffs. We thank Thee for the pages, the security, the food service folk, the elevator, subway and maintenance people.

Gracious God, may these faithful men and women be encouraged in realizing the Senate's dependence upon them and the indispensible role they play in the final product of Senate business. Bless them, Lord, strengthen them and help them find time for family, rest, relaxation, and recreation. In Jesus' name. Amen.

MONDAY, JULY 25, 1983

Thus saith the Lord, What iniquity have your fathers found in Me, that they are gone far from Me, and have walked after vanity, and are become vain?—Jeremiah 2: 5.

MERCIFUL GOD, these words of the prophet Jeremiah remind us of our propensity and peril in forsaking the living God. We come by idolatry so easily—not that of primitive man, but the subtle idolatry of sophisticated society. Failing to worship Thee, we embrace the seductive gods of power, position, prestige, popularity and money. Incurably religious, and refusing to follow Thee, we follow false gods and change into their image. *Following hollow gods, we become hollow souls.*—Paraphrase of Jeremiah 2: 5.

Forgive us Lord for starving our souls. Help us to understand that if we will not love Thee, we will find a substitute, even if that substitute is No-god with a capital "N." Renew us, gracious Father, that in worshiping Thee, we may grow into the image of the perfect human, Jesus. In His name we pray. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 27, 1983

GRACIOUS, LOVING, PATIENT GOD, hours of heated debate are over, the vote is taken, the die is cast. The big question, who wins? who loses? It is not whether a Senator wins or loses—or whether one side of the aisle or the other wins or loses—but has it been a victory or loss for the people? Has it been a victory or loss for the Nation—the world?

And today, Father, more votes are required, the Senate is confronted with more hard decisions on which ride national destiny and the people's welfare. Grant to each Senator a spirit-enlightened conscience and the courage to obey it. For the sake of the people, our Nation and the world, and for Thy honor, we pray in the name of Him who was dedicated to the glory of God. Amen.

THURSDAY, JULY 28, 1983

GRACIOUS GOD, OUR HEAVENLY FATHER, Thou hast lavishly endowed our land and our people. We have so much for which to be thankful. Forgive us for so easily accepting manifold blessings such as health, family love, friendships. We so often take these gifts for granted until we lose them, and then we so often complain. Teach us gratitude, Lord—gratitude for our land, rich in mineral wealth, beautiful mountains and valleys, rivers, lakes, and streams, forests and plains and deserts.

Teach us gratitude for each other. We so commonly withhold appreciation until a friend is gone, and then we eulogize over a casket. May we take seriously the Biblical exhortation, *Render, therefore, to all their due: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom, honor to whom honor. Owe no man anything but to love one another . . . .*—Romans 13: 7, 8. In the name of Him who is Incarnate Love. Amen.

FRIDAY, JULY 29, 1983

ALMIGHTY GOD, great forests in our land—thousands of acres of valuable timber—have been destroyed by fire started by a little spark. Central America is like a tinder box of confusion and conflict. Dear God, guide our Government in its involvement. Remembering the words of St. James . . . *the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity . . . that setteth on fire the course of nature . . . .*—James 3: 6, help the administration, the Congress, and all responsible individuals not to say or do anything which will ignite a conflagration. Dear God, guide the leaders of our Nation and the nations in Central America that we may have peace. We pray this in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

MONDAY, AUGUST 1, 1983

Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are His. He changeth the times and the seasons. He removeth kings, and setteth up kings. He giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding.—Daniel 2: 20, 21.

LORD OF HISTORY, we thank Thee for the belief which our forebears considered self-evident: That the people are sovereign—that government receives its just powers from the consent of the governed—that government is instituted to secure human rights which are inalienable, because they were endowed by God, who created all men equal.

Grant O God, in these critical days which challenge our political system, that we remember his foundation, upon which our founders built—that if we remove faith in the God who gives us life and liberty, we jeopardize the whole structure. In Jesus' name. Amen.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1983

SOVEREIGN LORD OF HISTORY, as the curtain rises on the final act of the Senate this year, the world is in confusion: wars and near wars on many fronts threaten world peace—international relations are strained and fragile—millions in America are unemployed—millions are poor, voiceless, and afraid. As the drama unfolds in this Chamber, may it be of substance and not charade. Help each player to take seriously his role in the light of the unprecedented crises. Let business be done here which will address itself to the real issues and not to games with rules and precedents.

Father in Heaven, since we last met, the Senate has lost one of its greatest statesmen. May the memory of the legacy left us by Senator Henry M. Jackson, which has been verbalized by so many of his peers, motivate the Senate to its individual and corporate finest hours.

Deliver from petty animosities, from the sacrifice of principle for political expediency. And, dear God, whatever the drama of these next weeks bring forth, let it not be comedy. In Jesus' name. Amen.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1983

"He's got the whole world in His hands."

FATHER GOD, we thank Thee for the profound truth in this simple Negro spiritual. We recall our first view of the Earth from space—like a colorful marble—a speck floating in vastness. Isaiah the prophet declared, *Behold the nations are as a drop in the bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the balance . . . . All nations are before Thee as nothing . . . .*—Isaiah 40: 15, 17.

We boast Lord, we strut, we flaunt ourselves as we make our brief appearance on the stage of life. We act as though we are the center of the universe. Help us to see ourselves as Thou dost see us, infinitesimal by comparison to the universe around us—yet infinitely precious to Thee—so loved by Thee that Thou didst sacrifice Thy son that we might enjoy eternal fellowship with Thee. In the name of Him who is Incarnate, Unconditional, Impartial, Universal Love. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1983

ETERNAL GOD, SOURCE OF ALL THAT IS, "FROM WHOM, THROUGH WHOM AND TO WHOM ARE ALL THINGS," we so easily ignore sources. We enjoy the fruit while we forget the root. We take human rights seriously because our forebears believed that they were inalienable, having been endowed by God who created all men equal. Forgetting this, Lord, our sense of human and moral values erode because we deny the One from Whom they came.

Help us, patient God, to understand that we confront world leaders for whom human value is meaningless, human rights nonexistent. These are not people who believe very much as we do and are simply misbehaving, these are people whose beliefs are antithetical to ours and who act totally consistent with their beliefs. Deliver us, Lord, from indifference to the roots of our behavior as well as the roots of the behavior of those who oppose us. Free us, Lord, from the naiveté that assumes these leaders think as we think and need only to be persuaded. May we be *wise as serpents and harmless as doves.*—Matthew 10: 16; In the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1983

For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

FATHER IN HEAVEN, at a time when international relations are strained to the breaking point, when there is so much division in our land among the people as well as the leadership, when almost any proposal will find strong advocacy and fierce opposition, we need a visitation of God upon us. I pray for an unprecedented manifestation of the power and the glory of God upon our city. May each office on Independence Avenue, Constitution Avenue, and Pennsylvania Avenue experience Thy presence and love.

Grant, dear God, that every Member of Congress and every Senator will somehow be made aware of the reality of God in his heart and his home. May every person who works on the Hill feel the presence of Almighty God in some undeniable, unforgettable way. Make Thyself known to us in sovereign wisdom and power, Lord Jehovah. In Thy name and for Thy glory. Amen.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1983

If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith.—James 1: 5, 6.

GOD OF ALL WISDOM, when the discussion and debate are finalized, when everthing that can be said has been, the time for decision has come, and the buck stops with Congress and the White House. Many have made loud noises, but they are free from this awesome responsibility. They can criticize and complain, but they do not have to decide. And dear God, the destiny of the whole world often rides on these decisions.

Father in Heaven, in these critical hours, when the world could explode in a conflagration, guide the Senators and the President as they face this monumental burden. In the loneliness of decision, reassure them that Thou art willing to lead them through the tangled web of confusing and contradictory alternatives to a righteous judgment. In the name of the Prince of Peace, we pray. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1983

GOD OF ALL COMFORT, we remember those of our Senate family who are in need. We pray for those who are ill in hospital or home. May this time be for them the school of the spirit when they learn what can be learned in no other way. We pray for their speedy recovery and return to us.

We pray for families where there is alienation between spouses or parents and children. Dissolve pride, teach humility and the ability to say "I am sorry" and to forgive. Bring peace to the home of every person who is a partner in the work of the Senate.

For those with financial difficulty, remind them that Thou art the "giver of every good and perfect gift," and that Thou art concerned for their need and want to help them in these most practical matters.

For those who grieve, or are discouraged or frustrated or ready to quit—for those who are lonely or feel rejected—we pray Thy spirit to comfort, encourage, and embrace in the fatherly love of God. In the name of Him who is Incarnate Love. Amen.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1983

FATHER GOD, thank Thee for life. Thank Thee for another day. We awoke this morning well and strong. Many did not awaken from sleep and many who did were unable to get out of bed. Some had to be hurried to a hospital.

Thank Thee, dear Lord, for this day with all its promise, challenge, and opportunity. May we not presume upon it as though we have some special right to life. May we remember that life and breath are gifts from Thee, that each of us has a purpose—a ministry for today, and that we are accountable to Thee in its fulfillment. In Jesus' name. Amen.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1983

Praise ye the Lord, Praise O ye servants of the Lord, praise the name of the Lord. Blessed be the name of the Lord from this time forth and for evermore. From the rising of the sun unto the going down of the same the Lord's name is to be praised. The Lord is high above all nations, and his glory above the heavens.—Psalm 113: 1–4.

GOD OF ABRAHAM, ISAAC, AND JACOB, LORD OF ALL PEOPLES AND ALL NATIONS, help Thy servants in Congress and the White House to find the way which transcends all prejudice and partisanship. In the effort to find peace internationally, help us not to make war among ourselves.

Let there be nothing in the heart and mind of any Senator which will prevent hearing those whose position is contrary. Remove all hindrances which would cause Thy servants to ignore the voice of the Holy Spirit speaking the wisdom of God to their consciences. Dear God, in the search for peace for others, may we be at peace among ourselves. In the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1983

GRACIOUS FATHER IN HEAVEN, this promises to be a pressure week. Thank Thee for the leadership, for their patience, their fairness, and their objectivity. Grant to them special wisdom as they guide the Senate through these days. Grant, dear God, that this week will be one characterized by the finest performance of every Senator and every staff person involved in legislation. Move in our midst in ways that will surprise all of us with the ease and proficiency with which business is done this week. Let it be one of the most memorable experiences in the 98th Congress. Give to every Senator and those associated in the labors of these days a very special dispensation of love and grace and blessing. In Jesus' name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1983

Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and no city or house divided against itself will stand.—Mathew 12: 25 (RSV).

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity.—Psalm 133: 1.

GRACIOUS FATHER IN HEAVEN, as the Senate faces the heavy responsibility of decision concerning a very critical and potentially divisive matter, we invoke Thy presence, Thy wisdom, Thy love and Thy power upon this House and in the heart of each Member. Strong and eloquent words have been spoken out of deep conviction. Grant dear God, when the vote is taken and the decision finalized, that the outcome will not weaken our unity as a government and as a people. We pray this in the name of Him whose mission was to unite all things. Amen.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1983

"Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

GRACIOUS FATHER GOD, we thank Thee for struggle, out of which comes strength and truth. We thank Thee when good, strong, wise women and men struggle for the right way. We thank Thee for the sacrificial struggle of our Founding Fathers who gave us a document so fundamental and timeless that it continues to be the central issue in the contemporary struggle in Congress.

At this critical, historic moment in our national life, dear God, grant that this struggle will issue in truth, righteousness, justice, and peace. Whatever the Senators will wish they had done when it is too late to do it, help them to do it today. In the name of Him who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Amen.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1983

The prayer today is the very familiar, much loved prayer by St Francis of Assisi.

"LORD, MAKE ME AN INSTRUMENT of Thy peace: where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy.

"O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love; for it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life." Amen.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1983

I will sing of Thy steadfast love, O Lord, forever; With my mouth I will proclaim Thy faithfulness to all generations. For Thy steadfast love was established forever, Thy faithfulness is as firm as the heavens—Psalm 89: 1, 2 (RSV).

FAITHFUL, FATHER GOD, help the Senators to hear the criticism of people and press—justified or not. If justified, help them to change in ways that will quiet the critic and the cynic. If not justified, help them to prove the criticism wrong. In these critical days for the Nation and the world, may the Senate be part of the solution and not part of the problem.

Dear God, deliver the Senate from everything that prevents its efficient and productive operation. Strengthen integrity, selflessness, servant-hood, honesty. Help each Senator to remember his mandate and be true to the responsibility and honor implicit in trustworthy leadership. In the name of Him who, though tempted as we, was without sin. Amen.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 1983

FATHER IN HEAVEN, thank you for the return of two of our very faithful servants in the Senate. We ask Thy blessing upon them.

Though I speak with the tongues of men and angels, and have not love, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not love, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not love, it profiteth me nothing.

Love suffereth long, and is kind; love envieth not; love vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up. Doth not behave itself, unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Love never fails.—I Corinthians 13: 1–8.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1983

GRACIOUS FATHER IN HEAVEN, as the time for the October recess nears, pressures increase, tension rises, and emotions are strained. Grant to the leadership and to those who struggle with agendas behind the scenes special wisdom in responding to unexpected demands, last minute contingencies and unpredictable human caprice.

God of love, let Thy peace, which passes understanding, infuse this place and quiet hearts and minds. Despite delicate issues, which awaken deep conviction and stir strong emotions, may the Senate find consensus that will honor Thee and benefit the people. In Jesus' name. Amen.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1983

FATHER IN HEAVEN, we remember in silence the family of Noel Coffey, one of our doorkeepers, who lost his son, and ask Thy blessing and peace for them.

Father in Heaven, we thank Thee for our families. Help all of us to be sensitive to the sacrifices which spouses and children must make so that Senators and all Senate staffs can devote themselves to the demanding tasks of public service.

May the October recess be a time when families have opportunities to be together in ways that will bring healing and reconciliation where there is estrangement and alienation and during which relationships between spouses, parents, and children will be deepened and strengthened. Enable Senators and staffs to accomplish all the work which awaits them in the recess without sacrificing family time.

Protect those who travel, keep them healthy and whole, and return them to their duties refreshed. We pray this in the name of the Lord who taught the sanctity of marriage and the priority of the family. Amen.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1983

LOVING HOLY FATHER, we thank Thee for the blessings of this past recess: For the work accomplished, time with family and friends, relaxation, rest and recreation. We thank Thee for the safe return of those who traveled. If there be those unable to return because of ill health, loss of a loved one, or other vicissitudes, we pray for their comfort and peace.

Almighty God, as the Senate resumes its work midst the pressures of serious domestic and international problems, grant that critical and demanding issues will not be sacrificed on the altar of an election more than a year away. Protect the Senate from being governed by pressure groups. Give to all who labor here wisdom in understanding the issues, strength for the task, and courage to make the moral choice. In the name of Jesus Christ who was Virtue Incarnate. Amen.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1983

Gracious God, infinite and impartial in love, who has "made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the Earth," the issue before the Senate today is fraught with strong conviction, deep emotion, and sensitive political implications. We invoke Thy presence in this Chamber this morning. As the Senate struggles with this potentially divisive issue, let Thy grace and peace overwhelm us. Grant cool heads and warm hearts to the Senators, let Thy love and wisdom fill this place, let reason prevail, and Thy will be done here, as it is in Heaven. We pray this in the name of Him whose sacrificial love embraced all peoples. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1983

Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my thoughts; and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.—Psalm 139: 23, 24.

God of truth and justice and righteousness, may this ancient prayer of the Israeli psalmist be taken seriously by each Senator as the moment of decision approaches. We know we have no secrets from Thee, O Lord, our lives are like an open book to Thee. Thou dost judge us not only for what we do but why we do it. Examine our motives, Lord, and give us grace to do what we believe is right for the right reasons.

Dear God, overrule every thought in our hearts that is contrary to Thy sovereign love and when this day is over may there be no regrets and may the Senate pursue its duty to the crucial issues which confront it. In Jesus' name. Amen.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1983

God of peace, give us a vision for unity in the Senate. We do not ask for uniformity, for diversity is the essence of unity. We thank Thee for the extraordinary diversity of the Senate:

one hundred individual agendas, State and regional agendas, private agendas of groups and organizations, plus unnumbered personal agendas of constituents. Thank Thee, Lord, for a system which works at all under such circumstances.

Gracious Father, we have been through a difficult experience which aggravated regional differences, aroused deepest emotions, and strained personal relationships. We know that divide and destroy is a classic enemy tactic. Help us not to capitulate to such a destructive force. Knowing that alienation is the root of sin and evil, we ask for grace to take seriously our personal relationships. Help us to respect our differences, to support each other in love, and to find health and wholeness as a body which will empower the Senate as a mighty force for unity and peace in a nation that is divided and alienated. We ask this in the name of the Prince of Peace, Incarnate Love. Amen.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1983

. . . *in quietness and confidence shall be your strength* . . . . —Isaiah 30: 15.

Be still and know that I am God.—Psalms 46: 10.

ALMIGHTY GOD, GRACIOUS FATHER IN HEAVEN, with the mindless atrocity in Lebanon still burning in mind and heart, we call upon Thee to comfort and bless those families who lost a loved one, encouragement and complete recovery for those injured, strength and hope for their families. As the President, his advisors and Members of Congress consider a response, help them to find the balance between revenge and capitulation.

Dear God, as our leaders bear the awesome responsibility of decisive action at a time when the world seems ready to explode in conflagration, may they realize they have recourse to Thee who gives transcendent wisdom and guidance. Help them to save time by taking time to seek Thee in silence and meditation. Remind them that in quietness in Thy presence they will find the course which leads to righteousness, justice, and peace. In the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1983

GOD OF TRUTH AND JUSTICE AND LOVE, at a time when indignation, anger, and frustration pervade the hearts of all Americans, we thank Thee for the restraint, the reason, the care with which our leaders, military and civil, are responding to the vicious attack upon our marines.

Heavenly Father, difficult as it is for the Senators to conduct business as usual under the circumstances, give them grace to dispose of legislation judiciously and effectively. May they be aware of their dependence upon Thee, their weakness, their fallibility, their limitations. And may they take moments this day to turn to Thee, to seek Thee, to wait upon Thee.

Dear God, grant to the President and his advisors, utmost wisdom in the disposition of this most sensitive situation. And grant to the people patience and uncommon trust in their elected leaders. May this irrational tragedy bind us all together in a fresh awareness of our own sin and failure, in the realization that we need each other and Thee, and in compassion for those who suffer most in this dark hour. In the name of Jesus who knew our troubles and trials and suffered for us all. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1983

FATHER IN HEAVEN, GOD OF ALL WISDOM, by whom all things are known, for whom the end is as plain as the beginning, we call upon Thee in this critical hour when fast-breaking events of great significance arouse uncertainty and apprehension. We pray for Thy comfort and peace for those for whom the unexpected means tragedy and loss. We pray for those who bear the overwhelming responsibility for decisive action. Grant them caution when emotions would overreact. Help them to keep events in perspective and not be pressured into premature judgment. Brace them against responsible threats from hotheads whose mouths are in high gear while their minds are neutral.

Gracious Father, we pray for the Senate press and media who bear disproportionate responsibility to correctly inform the public who are dependent upon them for the facts. Give them special wisdom and sensitivity as they fulfill their strategic missions in troubled times. And grant to all of us, dear God, patience with and love for each other, and a renewed confidence in Thy faithfulness, nearness and relevance. In Jesus' name. Amen.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1983

Let us observe a moment of silence for the marines in Lebanon and in Grenada, those who have lost their lives and their loved ones, those who are injured, and those whose families are not yet informed.

GOD OF MERCY AND LOVE, our Nation, our city, our elected leaders stand in need of divine grace and guidance. As the Senate pursues essential legislation which cannot wait, the clouds of tragedy in Lebanon and uncertain conflict in Grenada hang heavily and oppressively over all activity. The grief of families who have lost a son—the agony of others who wait anxiously for some word from a loved one is shared by all. Dear God, help us through these difficult hours that the right decisions will be made, the right action taken, and all that should be done will be done. We need Thee, Lord. Meet us in grace and love. Humbly we beseech Thee in Jesus' name. Amen.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1983

GOD OF ABRAHAM, ISAAC, AND ISRAEL, Moses in the law commanded, *Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.*—Deuteronomy 6: 5. Jesus said this was *the first and great commandment,* and that *the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself,* and that *all the law and all the prophets hang on these two commandments.*—Matthew 22: 38–40. The apostle Paul said . . . *love is the fulfilling of the law.*—Romans 13: 10.

Father in Heaven, help us to love Thee, to love ourselves and to love each other. Help us who make laws to take the law seriously, and obey it. In Thy name. Amen.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1983

May we remember in silence Ben Firshein, one of our Official Reporters of Debates, who is very, very ill at this time in the hospital.

LET US PRAISE THE LORD in the words of Psalm 150.

Praise ye the Lord, Praise God in His sanctuary, praise Him in the firmament of His power.

Praise Him for His mighty acts: praise Him according to His excellent greatness.

Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet: praise Him with the psaltery and harp.

Praise Him with the timbrel and dance: praise Him with stringed instruments and organs.

Praise Him upon the loud cymbals: praise Him upon the high sounding cymbals.

Let every thing that hath breath praise the Lord, Praise ye the Lord.—Amen.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1983

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.—Psalm 111: 10.

ETERNAL, UNCHANGING GOD, ALL WISE AND ALL POWERFUL, in mercy awaken us to our need of Thee. Thou art the God of the infinite and the God of the infinitesimal—the God of the universe and the God of the atom. Nothing is too big for Thee to handle, nothing is too small to escape Thy notice and concern. "The nations are as a drop in the bucket" to Thee, a sparrow does not fall to the ground but Thou knowest it.

Gracious, loving Father, somehow help all in authority to realize that Thou art the way out of futility and frustration—

the way to truth, justice, and righteousness. Give them to understand that they waste no time in seeking Thee, in waiting upon Thee. Teach them that Thou canst lead them in the way that transcends the best human judgment and into consensus that is consistent with reality. Help them to see that they save time by taking time for Thee. In the name of Him who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1983

LOVING GOD, we are so immersed in the material and the secular that we lose all sense of spiritual reality. We come to believe only what we can see and touch and measure. We are victims of the visible, depriving ourselves of the larger reality. Yet we experience the invisible in breath and feeling and fragrance and love. Forgive us Lord, for ignoring Thee, the Supreme Reality.

Father in Heaven, Thou knowest the frustration which seems to build as the Senate nears the end of a session. Senator Baker and Speaker O'Neill haved expressed a determination to adjourn November 18, yet few believe it will happen and disbelief is mixed with cynicism. Dear God, move in our midst to make this desire of leadership a reality. Make Thy presence felt in every heart, every home and every office in the Senate. Quicken us to the invisible, the spiritual, the transcendent reality. Prove Thy relevance to the hard business of legislation. Do it Lord—for Thy glory. Amen.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1983

GRACIOUS FATHER IN HEAVEN, our prayer today concerns the personal needs of all who work here and their loved ones. In the realization that each of us is his own biggest problem, we lift up to Thee the struggles which confront us—not external struggles caused by others, but those within for which we ourselves are responsible.

In mercy dear Lord, give grace to each of us who struggle with anger, a bitter or vindictive spirit, lust, pride, greed, or covetousness. Help those of us with a low self-image, who do not love ourselves and therefore cannot love others, who suffer a sense of failure. Be near to those who feel unloved, alienated, rejected and totally alone. Encourage those who feel persecuted, discriminated against, who are tempted to quit or even end their lives. Loving God, minister to those who are overwhelmed by guilt or plagued by some besetting sin which overtakes them no matter how hard they try to resist. May they realize Thou art a merciful, full-of-grace, loving God, who graciously forgives those who come to Thee and confess their need. In the name of the Saviour and Lord, we pray. Amen.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 1983

SOVEREIGN LORD, help us to appreciate the reality and relevance of prayer. Help us to understand that we have direct access to God and the lines are always open. Help us to understand that prayer is not just a religious exercise for the pious, that it is conversation with Him who loves us and longs for our love. Awaken us to the profound fact that prayer is contact with the source of all truth, all knowledge, all wisdom, all power.

Thank Thee, Lord, for the models of prayer we have in the great leaders of the past: Abraham, progenitor of Israel—Moses, the great law giver—David, preeminent among ancient kings—Solomon, the wisest of men—Sampson, the strongest of men—the Hebrew prophets—Jesus Christ—the Apostles—many of our Founding Fathers and many of the greatest leaders our Nation has produced.

Give to the Senators, dear God, the practical wisdom of seeking Thee daily, waiting upon Thee, listening to Thee. In Jesus' name, Amen.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1983

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.—Matthew 5: 8.

HOLY FATHER, the Bible and experience teach that purity is power—impurity is impotence. Like sand in machinery—like water in gasoline—impurity clogs the machinery—dilutes the energy. Our permissive culture deludes us, treating morality as archaic, despite the fact that many in power have been destroyed by this deception.

Gracious God, preserve us from the tragic waste of good men and women—strong men and women—trading in long-term power for temporary moral detours. Save us, Lord, from the debilitating cycle of self-accusation and guilt which follow such adventure. Strengthen us against seductive influences which would lead us to sacrifice a position of public power for private impurity. In the name of Him who was Virtue Incarnate we pray. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1983

In a moment of silence, let us pray for President and Mrs. Reagan, as they journey, for their protection and safe return.

GRACIOUS GOD, OUR HEAVENLY FATHER, these have been very somber hours on the Hill, and our spirits respond with ambivalence, gratitude mixed with indignation, as we reflect on Monday evening's bombing in the Senate. We are profoundly grateful at the providential early recess of the Senate. Had it been in session, many in the corridors and in the cloakrooms could have been severely injured, if not killed. We are grateful for the safety of the little rookie police woman and the veteran officer who could have been killed had they arrived on the second floor moments earlier. We are grateful that the reception in the Mansfield Room had ended. We are grateful Lord, for those dedicated to our security, whose days of routine may so suddenly, so unexpectedly change, putting their lives in great jeopardy.

But our spirits are indignant at the mindlessness, the meaninglessness of an act that violates the people of America whose property this is. We pray Lord that Thou wilt guide as consideration is given for increased security against such senseless acts. We thank Thee, dear God, in Thy gracious providence that no lives were lost and we commend to Thee those responsible for the act, that Thou wilt minister to them in grace and healing. In the name of Jesus, the Saviour and Mediator, we pray. Amen.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1983

. . . the scorner is an abomination to men.—Proverbs 24: 9.

A scorner seeketh wisdom and findeth it not . . . .—Proverbs 14: 6.

Cast out the scorner, and contention shall go out; yea, strife and reproach shall cease.—Proverbs 22: 10.

GOD OF TRUTH AND JUSTICE, our Nation is suffering from an acute case of cynicism—cynicism among the people, the press, higher education, business and the professions, even in the Senate. The massacre in Lebanon and the military engagement in Grenada seems to have evoked a spirit of cynicism rare to American life.

God of light and wisdom, reveal cynicism for what it is—pessimistic, derisive, scornful, contemptuous, antisocial, and counter-productive. Grant us to see that the cynic is a detractor who contributes nothing but futility.

God of love, in these critical times, awaken us to faith in ourselves which can come only from faith in Thee, Thy sovereignty in history, Thine integrity, and Thy trustworthiness. Forgive us for our indifference to Thee, our secularism, our unbelief, and quicken in us the hope in a providential God who loves unconditionally and forsakes not. In the name of Him whose unrelenting love took Him to the cross. Amen.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1983

GOD OF GRACE AND GLORY, we remember with profound gratitude the awful price which has been paid for the incalculable privileges we enjoy in this land. We thank Thee for the blessings of freedom and plenty unmatched by any other nation in history.

We thank Thee for the splendid tradition of dedication and sacrifice which has characterized the allegiance and loyalty of America beginning with our Founding Fathers who pledged their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor.

We thank Thee for the patriotism of millions of heroic men and women who at the cost of their lives upheld that tradition and preserved our Republic. We abhor the wars which have been so costly in the finest and best of American life, but we honor their memory and we pray for Thy special grace for all who mourn the loss of a loved one in conflict. May we who reap the immeasurable benefits of their sacrifice remain true to that for which our patriots gave their all. We pray in the name of Him Who gave His life to redeem us all. Amen.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1983

FATHER IN HEAVEN, Saturday sessions are never popular and they always bring disappointment. Plans must be changed or canceled and family expectations are blighted. We pray for those who suffer disappointment and ask that Thou will bless in unexpected ways that will compensate.

Meanwhile Father, we pray that Thou wilt enable the Senate to conduct essential business efficiently and productively. And dear Lord, help the Senate to find ways to eliminate practices which delay unnecessarily or frustrate inordinately the work to which the body is committed.

Gracious Lord, may families find opportunities to have some time together this weekend and may Senators be able to get some rest and relaxation. In the name of Him who said, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Amen.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1983

As the hart longs for the flowing streams, so longs my soul for Thee, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the Living God.—Psalm 42: 1, 2 (RSV).

Living God, as the psalmist describes his soul's longing for Thee, so do our souls languish for Thee. Forgive us, Lord, for starving our souls by our indifference. Help us to comprehend the emptiness we impose upon our souls when we ignore Thee, and the nourishment we give our souls when we take time for Thee.

This will be a week of pressure and frustration as the Senate attempts to adjourn Friday. Many assume this is impossible, but to Thee O Lord, "all things are possible." Dear God, enable the Senate to do the impossible in these next 5 days. Help us to see that we waste time when we have no time for Thee and we save time when we make time for Thee. Teach us that when we are too busy for God, we are too busy! In Jesus' name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1983

Dear God and Father of us all, we call upon Thee for a very special dispensation of wisdom for the Senate. Thou alone knowest our hearts. We cannot deceive Thee about ourselves. Grant us grace to be open to Thee. Thou knowest the tensions that build, the frustration and strong emotions that grow with the tension, as the attempt is made to adjourn on schedule. We pray that all the essential work will be done however long it takes, but deliver us from nonessentials.

We thank Thee Father for great traditions which established the course of the Senate and guide it daily. We know that many good institutions have become muscle bound by practice, which establish precedents that hinder productivity. Dear God, deliver the Senate from such futility. Bless the leadership and the Members as they do what they must these days. In the name of Him who finished His work on Earth. Amen.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1983

There is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.—Romans 13: 1.

Promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south. But God is the judge: He putteth down one, and setteth up another.—Psalm 75: 6, 7.

LORD GOD, SOVEREIGN IN HISTORY, Thy word is explicit that those who rule do so by divine appointment. May this truth be clear to all in authority and to those who elect them. We pray for the Senators who face the election next November, for their staffs and all who support them, that Thou wilt guide them as their campaigns accelerate. Provide the finances necessary for them to do their best. Keep them sensitive to their accountability to Thee and the truth "man proposes but God disposes". And gracious Father in Heaven, do not allow them to sacrifice wives and families on the altar of a political crusade.

May the blessing of Thy love and peace be with all the Senators, their loved ones, and their staffs. We pray in the name of Him to whom belongs all power in Heaven and on Earth. Amen.

Second Session

[January 23, 1984—October 12, 1984]

MONDAY, JANUARY 23, 1984

When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn.—Proverbs 29: 2.

HOLY FATHER, we begin the 2d session of the 98th Congress under a cloud of critical matters of great magnitude and severe consequences.

One commentator wrote, "The conventional wisdom is that Congress has little courage normally and even less in an election year." Dear God, grant that the Senate will prove that statement false. Surprise even the Senators by leading them through uncommon legislative achievements.

Grant, Lord, that this final session of Senator Baker's leadership may be one of the most productive and constructive in his many years of public service.

Let Thy will be done in this place as it is in Heaven. We pray in the name of Him who holds all power in Heaven and on Earth. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 1984

ALMIGHTY GOD, LOVING FATHER, on this important day in Congress, we look to Thee for Thy gracious presence in this place. We regret profoundly that mindless terrorism demands extraordinary precaution. We thank Thee for those who provide security and pray Thy special dispensation of grace on them as they fulfill their responsibility, often in the face of misunderstanding and impatience.

We pray loving Lord, that Thou wilt brood over the Capitol and grant divine protection as Congress gathers for its joint session. Give special care to the President of the United States and frustrate the plans of any who may have evil intent toward this evening. We pray this in the name of Him who is Lord of Heaven and Earth. Amen.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 1984

They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run and not be weary; and they shall walk and not faint.—Isaiah 40: 31.

PATIENT, MERCIFUL FATHER IN HEAVEN, help us to take Thee seriously. We take ourselves so seriously and seldom are our thoughts of Thee. We profess to believe in Thee, but we behave as though Thou art nonexistent. We have time for almost everything else but we are too busy for Thee. Forgive us Lord, for our indifference and the hurried, harried lives which such indifference imposes upon us.

May we remember that Thou art a God who is near—nearer than hands or feet—nearer than breathing. Make us to realize that Thou knowest the end from the beginning and all that is in between—that we can receive from Thee wisdom which comes from knowledge of the future. Help us to seek Thee Lord, to wait upon Thee, to listen to Thee daily. We pray in the name of the man Jesus Christ who lived in unbroken relationship with Thee. Amen.

MONDAY, JANUARY 30, 1984

O praise the Lord, all ye nations: praise Him, all ye people. For His merciful kindness is great toward us: and the truth of the Lord endureth forever. Praise ye the Lord.—Psalm 117.

ALMIGHTY GOD, LORD OF HEAVEN AND EARTH, we thank Thee that history is not capricious, that it is not absurd as one existentialist noted—that in the word of one of Shakespeare's characters, history is not a "tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing." We thank Thee that history has meaning and purpose—that it is going somewhere because Thou dost have a plan. We thank Thee that we are part of that plan. Give us the humility to acknowledge this and to conform our lives to Thy purpose.

We want to thank Thee, gracious Heavenly Father, for the long years of service in this Chamber of Ben Firshein, Official Reporter of Debates, and commend his loved ones to Thee in their loss. May they enjoy Thy comfort and peace. In the name of Him who is the Lord of life and history, we pray. Amen.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 31, 1984

OUR HEAVENLY FATHER, we thank thee for the recovery and the return of Senator Stennis and Senator Matsunaga.

Merciful Father in Heaven whose love is unconditional, unmerited, unlimited, unchanging, impartial, universal, and eternal, help us to realize that we are loved by Thee in spite of ourselves. Awaken us to the profound truth that we can do nothing to make Thee love us more and we can do nothing to make Thee love us less, for Thou art love. Grant us the grace to receive Thy love and to respond by loving Thee, ourselves, and others. We pray in the name of Him who is Love Incarnate and whose love put Him on a cross for us. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1984

FATHER IN HEAVEN, we invoke Thy presence in the Senate Chamber, throughout this building and in the offices on Constitution Avenue. As Senators and their staffs labor over issues of great magnitude and come to decisions critical to the common good, may they be governed by Thy wisdom and guidance. Grant that the work done will conform to Thy divine will and purpose.

Great God, as people come from all over the Nation and the world for the Annual National Prayer Breakfast, we pray for Thy sovereign blessing over our city and this event. As men and women from every State in the Union join with those from more than a hundred nations, the President and Mrs. Reagan, the Vice President and Mrs. Bush, leaders from every department of Federal Government and the diplomatic community, let Thy spirit breathe upon that microcosm of the world to Thy honor and glory. We pray this in the name of Him who is worthy of all exaltation. Amen.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1984

ALMIGHTY GOD, SOVEREIGN LORD OF ALL, Thy word declares . . . *there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.*—Romans 13: 1 (RSV).

Grant that Thy servants remember that they are here by divine appointment and accountable to Thee in their work.

Give them Thy wisdom as they wrestle with complex issues—clarity in debate—courage of conviction as they vote. Keep them from compromise which sacrifices principle. Lead them to justice and compassionate decisions. May Thy grace guide their deliberations and Thy blessing crown their efforts.

In the name of Him Who is the Light of the World. Amen.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1984

FATHER IN HEAVEN, as the Senate moves more deeply into its legislative session and recess is imminent, we pray for our families. Pressure, tension, urgency build, and it is easy to justify neglecting spouse and children. Help us to realize that there is no adequate substitute for a husband and wife—no adequate substitute for a father and mother. Give us the grace to put priority where it belongs, knowing that no matter how one may succeed in life, one is a failure if he defaults as spouse and parent and allows the family to disintegrate. Help us, Lord, to take seriously our God-given responsibility to our families. Bless them, strengthen them, deepen and mature family love. In Jesus' name. Amen.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1984

. . . *except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.*—Psalm 127: 1.

FATHER IN HEAVEN, we pray today for Larry Smith, the Sergeant at Arms and all who work with him. They have a duty to perform which is guaranteed to displease many. We pray that they may be given patience as complaints pour in and grace to respond in love and kindness to those who are angry, who grumble and growl. Help us all to accept the necessity of these restraints, to behave understandingly to those who bear the burden of enforcing them and be grateful for their faithfulness to our welfare.

We pray for the police, the doorkeepers, the plainclothes people and all who have direct contact with the public who have difficulty accepting new rules. Give them grace when people are hostile and help us never to forget that their lives are on the line whenever and wherever security is involved. Dear God, please do not allow these superficial changes to disrupt the deeper harmony and unity of the Senate. In Jesus' name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1984

LOVING FATHER, we remember Senator Leahy, his family and especially his mother, in the loss of his beloved father. Fill their hearts with Thy peace and comfort. We remember also Senator Evans in the loss of his brother and pray Thou wilt console the family and especially the widow with Your gracious love.

Almighty God, Supreme Ruler of the Universe from whom comes all authority and all power, we pray for Thy blessing and guidance as the Senate faces these next 3 busy days. We thank Thee for our leaders, Senator Baker, and Senator Byrd, and we ask that Thou wilt give them widsom, strength, and patience as they steer the Senate through the work that ought to be completed before recess.

Help the Senate to avoid superfluous issues that retard rather than advance progress. Free the Senators from extraneous matters that interrupt and force them to digress from essential activities. Free them from anxiety and discouragement and help their hearts and minds to be open to divine direction.

We thank Thee Lord for hard working staffs whose tireless labors behind the scenes support the Senators in getting the job done. Bless them in their commitment and faithfulness. We ask this in the name of Him who finished the work He came to Earth to do. Amen.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1984

GOD OF MERCY, JUDGE OF ALL THE EARTH, help us never to forget that Thou art the God of order. May we remember the law writ large in history, the inexorable law of the harvest. Thy word declares, *Be not deceived, God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.*—Galatians 6: 7. We *sow the wind, we reap the whirlwind.*—Hosea 8: 7. We *sow to ourselves in righteousness, we reap in mercy* . . . .—Hosea 10: 12. As we take seriously the physical order by which we progress technologically, may we take seriously the moral order whereby we grow spiritually. We pray in the name of Him whose perfect humanity reflected obedience to Thy law. Amen.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1984

CELEBRATING GEORGE WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY

"It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible."—George Washington.

LORD GOD OF HISTORY, as we honor George Washington, father of our country, may we heed his testimony of need for and dependence upon God and the Bible which he shared with many of his peers. Help us to see the peril in a policy which takes God seriously, if at all, only in synagogues, temples, churches, and cathedrals, and disregards Him between Sabbaths and Sundays. Forgive our indifference to the Bible which Washington treasured as essential to national life and government. Grants us grace to reconnect with the Judeo-Christian roots which motivated our founders and upon which they built this Republic. In Jesus' name. Amen.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1984

GOD OF PEACE AND TRUTH AND LIGHT, the Senate is a place of great power, pressure and phrenetic activity with very little time to think—to reflect—to get perspective. The question posed by the theologian, John Baillie, is relevant, "What is the good of labor that is not guided by constant thought about its meaning and end?" Protect the Senators from the tyranny of the urgent. Save them from circumstances which force them to let others do their thinking for them. Help them with self-management so they will take time for reflective thoughts. Deliver them from such immersion in issues that they cannot "see the forest for the trees." Guide them to time for the long look—the quiet look—the view from above. We pray this in the name of the Lord who was never in a hurry but always in charge. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1984

Be still—and know that I am God.—Psalm 46: 10.

PATIENT FATHER IN HEAVEN, we live so much of our lives in a busy, superficial, noisy environment. We are inundated with an avalanche of words, information, ideas, requests, complaints and suggestions. Teach us the wisdom of contemplation—the luxury of silence—the sheer necessity of withdrawing for quiet reflection. The prophet Isaiah declared . . . *in quietness and confidence is Thy strength.*—Isaiah 30: 15. May we heed his counsel. Help us to distinguish between business and mere busyness, that we may approach our heavy responsibilities with sanity and objectivity. We ask this in the name of Him who never neglected people, yet always took time to pray. Amen.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1984

Give unto the Lord, O ye mighty, give unto the Lord glory and strength. Give unto the Lord the glory due unto His name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.—Psalm 29: 1, 2.

ALMIGHTY GOD, SUPREME LORD OF THE UNIVERSE, the whole Earth is full of Thy glory. *The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament sheweth his handywork.*—Psalm 19: 1. Help us to see that we diminish our humanness when we do not or will not glorify Thee. Help us to see that the root of man's refusal to honor Thee as the first order of life is not simply oversight but is actually rebellion. Grant us grace, dear God, to set our priorities straight and to give to Thee the preeminence which is exclusively Thine. We pray in the name of Him whose exemplary humanness was a perfect model of praise and adoration to God. Amen.

MONDAY FEBRUARY 27, 1984

The Lord is my life and my salvation, whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strenght of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?—Psalm 27: 1.

FATHER IN HEAVEN, FROM WHOM COMES ALL POWER AND AUTHORITY, the men and women who compose the Senate are here not just because they want to be, but because they submitted themselves to the will of the people. A majority in the state, at least the majority of those who voted, believe that each had the credentials and qualifications to be trusted with the Nation's welfare. Each of these uncommon, powerful Senators of good repute is here by the will of the people.

With all this power and all these credentials concentrated in one body, the whole ought to be far greater than the sum of its parts. Dear God, we pray that the opposite will not happen in this election year. As the thousands of agendas represented here gravitate more and more into the context of partisan or personal agendas—as competition for office increases and cooperation decreases—preserve the Senate from diminished unity and intensified fragmentation so that the body as a whole becomes less than the sum of its parts. In the name of Him who entered history to unite all things. Amen.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1984

LOVING HEAVENLY FATHER, many in our large Senate family are hurting and we commend them to Thy gracious, fatherly care. We pray for those who have lost loved ones, that Thou wilt fill their hearts with consolation and peace and comfort them in their grief. We pray for spouses who have lost their love and struggle an eroding relationship. Give them courage to honor the sacred covenant which binds them and bring healing to their love.

We remember parents frustrated by rebellious children. Grant them wisdom in parental responsibility and remind them of the unconditional love which Thou dost show toward us. For those who suffer financial difficulty, we pray for Thy wisdom and provision. For those who are discouraged and depressed, we pray renewed hope. Help us to love and serve one another. Make us sensitive and compassionate so that we may be agents through which Thou dost answer prayer.

We pray in the name of Jesus, who never failed to respond to human need. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 1984

Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord.—Psalm 33: 12.

ALMIGHTY GOD, SOVEREIGN OF HISTORY, let us never forget that Thou art the source of our strength. We are grateful for strong Senate staffs. We are grateful for strong Senators. We are grateful for strong leadership. We are grateful for strong diversity. But help us, Lord, to remember that combined strengths are weakness when there is divisiveness.

Make us to see that our greatest strength is in our unity. Save the Senate, Lord, from fragmentation and impotence. Above all, gracious God, may we remember that our strength comes from Thee. Deliver us from the delusion that we can get along without Thee. We pray in the name of the most powerful man in history who found His strength in Thee. Amen.

THURSDAY, MARCH 1, 1984

O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is Thy name in all the Earth.—Psalm 8: 9.

WE NEED THEE, LORD, We need Thee to be our best as public servants. We need Thee to be good fathers and mothers. We pray for our spouses and children. Help us not to fail our first duty to them. We pray for children of one parent who so often suffer unmitigated loneliness. We pray for rejected children who wander the streets of our great cities and become objects of exploitation for evil purposes. Help us, Lord, with all our power, to be compassionate in public judgments and in private pursuits.

Help us to understand, gracious God, that we need Thee to be compassionate—that we weaken our potential when in arrogant self-reliance we live independently of Thee. Make us to realize that we are most independent when we live in dependence upon Thee. Let our lives show forth Thy praise. We pray in the name of Him whose ordered life was an expression of total dependence upon Thee. Amen.

FRIDAY, MARCH 2, 1984

The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord; and He delighteth in His way.—Psalm 37: 23.

FATHER IN HEAVEN, politicians know that losing is part of their business, and they know how to lose gracefully. They do all in their power to win and they accept the alternative. But, dear Lord, politicians are human, with hearts and egos that can be hurt deeply, even though it may not appear on the surface.

We pray this morning for the Senators who have withdrawn from the race for nomination. Be real to them in their lonely, questioning hours. Minister to whatever need they experience within. Especially do we pray for their wives, who probably suffer more than their husbands. If there be a sense of rejection, encourage them and lead them, with the Senators, in the continuing significant public service which Thou hast planned for them. We pray in the name of Him whose love and service were unconditional and impartial, yet who suffered total rejection on a cross. Amen.

MONDAY, MARCH 5, 1984

He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God.—Micah 6: 8.

GOD OF TRUTH AND JUSTICE, we invoke Thy Holy presence in this building today, in the offices on both sides, and in the hearts of all concerned who gather on the Hill. Our hearts are heavy that prayer should be a controversial and divisive issue.

Living God, we are so prone to oversimplify issues. We so easily assume that there are only two sides—my side and the other one. Help us to see that there are at least three sides—mine, the other one, and God's. Forgive us when we equate our side with God's and grant us grace to seek God's side.

Brood over this place, and restrain anger, meanness, hostility, and a vindictive spirit. "Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." We pray in the name of Him who commanded us to love those who oppose us. Amen.

TUESDAY, MARCH 6, 1984

Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not love, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling *cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not love, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not love, it profiteth me nothing. Love suffereth long, and is kind; love envieth not; love vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Love never fails.*—I Corinthians 13: 1–8.

DEAR GOD, help us to love one another. In the name of Jesus, Incarnate Love. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7, 1984

FATHER IN HEAVEN, here we are—100 Senators like a great symphony orchestra with incredible potential and a complex score. We do not make music if all use the same instrument or play the same notes. That would be unbearable boredom and no one would listen. Diversity is the essence of harmony. Nor do we produce music by throwing our instruments at each other or by playing louder than the other, or when each tries to solo or when we ignore the conductor.

Help us Lord, to seek relationships which blend efforts and guarantee music that will edify and inspire. Save us from discord that grinds and grates and grieves. Help each of us to follow the score of his conscience under Thy direction as the maestro so we may make beautiful music together. In the name of Him whose mission is to unite all things. Amen.

MONDAY, MARCH 12, 1984

Praise ye the Lord. Praise God in His sanctuary: praise Him in the firmament of His power.

Praise Him for His mighty acts: praise Him according to His excellent greatness.

Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet: praise Him with the psaltery and harp.

Praise Him with the timbrel and dance: praise Him with stringed instruments and organs.

Praise Him upon the loud cymbals: praise Him upon the High sounding cymbals.

Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord.—Psalm 150. Amen.

TUESDAY, MARCH 13, 1984

FATHER IN HEAVEN, in our culture strong people do not admit weakness—but they feel it. They are not allowed to admit vulnerability—but they know they are. Power is the word and powerlessness is unacceptable. So we live as though we are supposed to be infallible—and the pressure of perpetuating such illusion is debilitating and destructive.

Forgive us Lord for such hypocrisy. Save us from its incipient enslavement, and free us to be ourselves. Help us to accept the exciting possibility that to acknowledge weakness and inadequacy might open the door to divine possibilities beyond our best human reasoning. We pray in the name of the truly authentic human who was himself and never pretended to be anything else. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 1984

We know that in everything God works for good with those who love Him, who are called according to His purpose.—Romans 8: 28 (RSV).

SOVEREIGN LORD, we thank Thee for the promise that though not all that happens is good, Thou dost work in all things for good with those who love Thee. Thou art able to recycle sin, failure, evil, tragedy, the worst of circumstances and transform them into that which is good. Thou dost turn that which is cursed into that which is blessed. Thou art the Sovereign Lord of History who doeth all things well. Help us, gentle Lord, to be reassured in this truth midst our struggles, failures, disappointments, frustrations, and reverses. In Jesus' name. Amen.

THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 1984

FATHER GOD, as debate draws to a close and decision is imminent, let Thy grace rest upon this place. Help the people of the land to appreciate the significant fact that their Senators have taken seriously the issue of school prayer and that they have devoted a great deal of time, study, and effort to its consideration. Help the people to understand, Lord, that no Senator is against prayer whatever his or her position on the issue. Thank Thee, Lord, for public servants who exercise their accountability to their constituents and their duty.

As the moment of decision approaches, Father, help the Senators to have cool heads and warm hearts and guide the matter to resolution with as little heat and as much light as possible. We pray this in the name of Him whose loving purpose is to unite us. Amen.

MONDAY, MARCH 19, 1984

I will bless the Lord at all times: His praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul shall make her boast in the Lord . . . O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together.— Psalm 34: 1-3.

THOU ART WORTHY OF OUR PRAISE, O LORD. May we not neglect to honor Thee, to exalt Thee, to magnify Thy name. "Thou hast made us for Thyself, O God, and our hearts are restless until they repose in Thee." (St. Augustine) God of grace and love, these words of the eminent theologian, St. Augustine, remind us of our lostness, our loneliness, our emptiness without Thee. Save us, Lord, from indifference to Thee and lead us in the way of truth and justice. In the name of Him who loved us and gave Himself for us. Amen.

TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 1984

LOVING FATHER, political decisions are rarely simple and the prayer amendment is no exception. The pressure of constituents, zealous advocates who often are very nasty and abusive, lobbyists, and other special interests challenges conviction and conscience. May Thy grace and peace abide in this place today. Guide each Senator as the critical moment approaches and help each to do what will not be regretted when it is all over. In the name of Him whose love transcends all divisions. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21, 1984

GRACIOUS, MIGHTY GOD, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, God of Jesus, the apostles and the church, God of the nations, Lord of history, Father of us all, the Senate has worked its will. After hard study and great debate under intense pressure, the Senate of the United States has spoken. Thou art still on the throne, Thou hast not abdicated.

Give us the grace to accept this judgment in the confidence that Thou dost work in everything for good to them who love Thee and are called according to Thy purpose. Forbid, Lord, that we should allow the Senate action to divide us, aware that to divide and conquer is the relentless stategy of the spiritual adversary. Help us to seek the "unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" and to love one another, which is the clearest evidence of our discipleship. In the name of Him who forgave His enemies as he hung on a cross. Amen.

MONDAY, MARCH 26, 1984

Whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant.—Matthew 20: 27.

FATHER IN HEAVEN, we thank Thee for the unsung heroes of the Senate—the men and women who work behind the scenes but without whom the Senate could not function. We thank Thee for those who keep records, do research, write speeches, handle mail, answer telephones, operate computers, deal with irate people who demand to see busy Senators, respond to constituents who expect the impossible.

We thank Thee, Lord, for those who provide security, food service, operate the subways, and the elevators, for police work work outside in all kinds of inclement weather, for those who maintain buildings and grounds. Help them to know that they are appreciated and bless them with their families who often sacrifice for the sake of the work. In the name of Him who "came not be served but to serve and to give His life a ransom for many." Amen.

TUESDAY, MARCH 27, 1984

GRACIOUS GOD, HEAVENLY FATHER, our hearts are filled with gratitude and pride for our leader, Senator Howard Baker, who has been awarded the Nation's highest civilian honor, the Presidential Medal of Freedom. We thank Thee for the years of dedicated, strong and fruitful public service which make this honor so richly deserved.

We ask for him a very special dispensation of Thy grace. Grant O God, that these final months of his distinguished leadership will be crowned with fulfillment of his finest aspirations for the Senate, the Nation, and the world. May he know the profound respect, admiration and affection of his peers and all the people. In the name of the Servant of servants we pray. Amen.

THURSDAY, MARCH 29, 1984

LORD OF HISTORY, we thank Thee for our most precious resource next to life and health—the gift of time. We thank Thee that Thou hast endowed us all—commoner and king, peasant and president, servant and Senator—with an equal amount, and no one has a corner on it. Forgive our failure as stewards of time in the abuse of this incalculable resource. Give us an appreciation for the relentless nature of time.

Grant us the wisdom to see that the only way to manage time is to use it wisely—that if we do not use it we kill it—that we cannot store up minutes or hours—that the only way to save time is to spend it constructively.

Gracious God, may we also understand that if we are not anchored in eternity, we are the victims of the vicissitudes of time, slaves to the tyranny of the urgent. In the name of Him whose brief time on Earth was eternally significant. Amen.

FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 1984

GOD OF TRUTH AND JUSTICE, we thank Thee for the Senate press and media—for their tireless efforts to get the news. We thank Thee for their willingness, when circumstances demand it, to take great risks in dangerous situations. We pray for Jerry Levin, missing now for more than a month, wherever he is, that Thou will be with him and his loved ones.

Help the press and the media not to be hardened when they suffer the wrath of those who resent it when truth is exposed—or by the hypocrisy, caprice and weakness of human flesh—remembering that they also are human. Save them from cynicism and help them not to impregnate the public mind with seeds of cynicism.

Gracious God, help them to be aware of the awful power of words to kill—the futility of retracting destructive words even if they are false, once they have been published. Give them empathy for the pain and helplessness of those damaged by false accusation or half-truths.

Grant them wisdom to comprehend the dependence of the people for the information they dispense, and help them never to forget the awesome influence of their profession and its incumbent responsibility. Help us all to appreciate the indispensability of a free press and to accept the risks implicit in this freedom as in all freedom. In the name of Jesus, Incarnate Truth. Amen.

MONDAY, APRIL 2, 1984

But the meek shall inherit the earth; and they shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.—Psalm 37: 11.

GOD OF PEACE, help us to find the way of peace. Make us wise and sensitive in our relationships with other nations. Help us to find the balance between response and restraint. Save us from national pride which assumes we are to police the world, and national selfishness which abdicates responsibility to the world.

Gracious Lord, while we are seeking peace in the world, let us not make war in the Senate. May we demonstrate in this body the peace which we seek among nations. May we be peacemakers in our homes, with neighbors, with those of other races, those of differing social or economic status, and with those whose religious convictions differ. Free us from the hypocrisy which talks peace among nations, while we war among ourselves. In the name of the Prince of Peace we pray. Amen.

TUESDAY, APRIL 3, 1984

GREAT GOD OF TRUTH AND LIGHT, we thank Thee for the gift of speech. Words are the coin of the realm in this place. Millions of words have echoed through this Chamber and found their way to the printed page. Give to the word merchants who labor here continuing sensitivity to the influence of the spoken word. Help them to appreciate the power of words to inspire, to discourage, to console, to convict, to persuade, to alienate, to honor, to disparage, to encourage, to disappoint, to comfort, to embarrass, to edify, to offend, to strengthen, to weaken, to motivate, to immobilize, to give hope, to frustrate, to purify, to pollute, to build, to destroy. Thy word, O God, declares that *Death and life are in the power of the tongue.*—

Proverbs 18: 21. May we use this awesome power to bless and never curse. Help us to speak the truth in love. In the name of Him who was the word made flesh. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, 1984

"WE HOLD THESE TRUTHS to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights . . . to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed."—Declaration of Independence.

Lord God of history, source of all power and authority, we thank Thee for the vision of our forebears who understood these fundamentals of a God-ordered world—the people, sovereign under God—government accountable to the people. May we remember Lord, that when God is removed from the equation, the system breaks down—the people lose their sovereignty—government becomes autocratic and human rights are meaningless.

Help us not to forget Thee, Lord, and the bountiful grace which Thou hast lavished upon us. Help us to take Thee seriously and emulate those who laid on the line their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor for the beliefs which conceived this Republic. Deliver us from the idolatry which absolutizes that which is relative and temporal, and relativizes that which is absolute and eternal. In the name of Him who is the same yesterday, today and forever. Amen.

MONDAY, APRIL 9, 1984

Let us be silent for a moment in memory of Senator Frank Church and his loved ones.

Thus saith the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel . . . in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength . . . .—Isaiah 30: 15.

Be still and know that I am God . . . .—Psalm 46: 10.

GOD OF PEACE, we live in a noisy world. We are surrounded by noise, engulfed by noise, assaulted by noise, immersed in noise—aircraft overhead, the roar of traffic with its horns and sirens, the clatter and whir of office machines, even music is noisy. But perhaps worst of all, the cacophony of words—millions of them—like an avalanche burying us. We remember when noise was the exception—silence the rule. Now noise is normal—silence the distraction. We are startled by silence but we are starved for silence and we are losing our way.

Loving Lord, help us to find our way to Thee. Help us to seek silence that we may hear Thee. God of exquisite silence, as Thou didst speak to Elijah, not in the wind, not in the earthquake, not in the fire, but in a still small voice, speak to us. Help us to find quietness—and in it Thee. In Jesus' name. Amen.

TUESDAY, APRIL 10, 1984

LORD GOD ALMIGHTY, the week before recess is always pressure time, but this week is unusually crowded. Grant to our leaders, Senator Baker and Senator Byrd, special wisdom, understanding, and patience as they guide the Senate through what seems an impossible agenda. Help the Senators as they work through ponderous issues. Help hardworking staffs as they sift and sort and study mountains of data to give their Senators the essence of the issues. Give special grace to the Secretary of the Senate, the Sergeant at Arms, and their staffs and those who manage the cloak rooms as they coordinate activities and help the machinery of the Senate to run smoothly. Strengthen and bless the editor in chief, his associates, and those who record and process debate. Dear Lord, save the Senate from trivia—let all that ought to be accomplished be done decently and in order to the benefit of the Nation and the satisfaction of all who labor here. In the name of Him who never hurried, was never anxious, and finished His task. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11, 1984

FATHER IN HEAVEN, we pray this morning for our families. Thank Thee for united families, mature in love and strong in connection. Thank Thee for men and women in public life who do not allow their families to be sacrificed on the altar of public service. Help those who struggle with priorities and sometimes engage in harsh words which compound frustrations.

Protect our homes against alienation. Encourage faithful spouses for whom changed plans and disappointment have become commonplace. Help youth who live on the edge of concealed bitterness to appreciate the necessity which sometimes causes parents to seem callous and indifferent. Help us all to put first things first remembering that the social order collapses when the family disintegrates. In the name of Him who taught that love fulfills all law. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25, 1984

GOD OF GRACE AND MERCY, we thank Thee for life. We thank Thee for Passover and Easter celebrations which remind us of Your liberating passion and power—Your gracious care and provision for every exigency of life. May we never turn our backs on such love. We thank Thee for Resurrection and its hope for emancipation from the weakness and limitation of the body which so often frustrate our fondest aspirations and highest goals. We thank Thee for the supreme hope which Passover and Easter promise. We thank Thee for the reminder of irrepressible life as beauty and fragrance explode and abound all around us in profusion.

We thank Thee, Father in Heaven, for the recess—for opportunity to strengthen family bonds. We thank Thee for the safe return of those who traveled. Especially are we grateful for the safety of Senator Chiles and Senator Johnston. Thank Thee for all the work the Senators were able to accomplish in home States. Lead us Lord, as we enter into the heavy responsibility of legislation which impinges on the life of every

American and often on the world of nations. In the name of Him whom the grave could not conquer. Amen.

THURSDAY, APRIL 26, 1984

In a moment of silence, let us remember President and Mrs. Reagan in China.

(A moment of silence was observed.)

Father in Heaven, we thank Thee for the blessing of Senator Jacob Javits' presence with us yesterday. His words resonate in my heart as I compose this prayer. He said, "We need to pray because without it, we would be tyrants or fools." Thank Thee for the wisdom of years and experience with which this beloved Senator speaks. May we take seriously his counsel.

Almighty God, often in this place the Senators find themselves in the vortex of cosmic issues upon which hangs, not simply the common welfare, but the survival of the human race. Help the Senators to accept their inadequacy and need for divine intervention. Help them to see issues from above rather than from within—so they can separate the urgent from the essential—the trivial from the important. Give them grace to *do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God.*—Micah 6: 8. In His name and to His glory we pray. Amen.

MONDAY, APRIL 30, 1984

Thy mercy, O Lord, is in the heavens; and Thy faithfulness reacheth unto the clouds. Thy righteousness is like the great mountains; Thy judgments are a great deep: O Lord, Thou preservest man and beast. How excellent is Thy loving kindness, O God!—Psalm 36: 5–7.

We thank Thee, Gracious Father, for your unconditional, impartial, unwearying, patient, forgiving, victorious love, love which never changes, never coerces, never manipulates, never ceases. Forgive our indifference—our reluctance—our rejection—our rebellion against this relentless love which seeks us throughout our lives from conception to death.

Deliver us from whatever it is within us that causes us to deprive ourselves of the matchless grace which Thou dost lavish upon us. We pray in the name of Him whose cross is the measure of that love. Amen.

TUESDAY, MAY 1, 1984

MERCIFUL FATHER IN HEAVEN, thank You for Your gracious perseverance in seeking and wooing us. Forgive us when we run away as though we are afraid lest You get too close or when we ignore You or find substitutes to replace You. Help us to see the distinction between religion—man's search for God—and Biblical faith—God seeking man. Save us from creating our own gods and diminishing our true humanness which was created in the image of God. Save us from trying to be our own gods—believing only in ourselves and suffering the frustration that self-worship generates. Lead us to Thee, the true God, that we may find ourselves and be fulfilled as the children of God we were meant to be. In the name of the Perfect Man, who served Thee as Father. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 2, 1984

May we have a moment of silence during which we remember Judge William Webster and the loss of his wife Drusilla.

Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord . . . .—Psalm 33: 12.

ALMIGHTY GOD, we have come a long way since our birth as a Republic but we have wandered somehow. Our Founding Fathers held freedom of religion as fundamental. We have translated their deep conviction into freedom from religion. We have become technological giants—spiritual and moral dwarfs. We are sophisticated in scientific progress and primitive in spiritual development. We are knowledgeable in the ways of the world and ignorant in the way of God. We live as though man is the center of the universe and God a peripheral invention of pious enthusiasts. We are abundantly rich in material resources and abysmally poor in spiritual and moral capital. Dear God, help us to get our act together before it is too late. In the name of Him who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Amen.

TUESDAY, MAY 8, 1984

GRACIOUS FATHER IN HEAVEN, today we celebrate the centennial of the birth of Harry S Truman, former Senator and President. We thank Thee for the memory of this very uncommon common man, remembering the international trauma under which he took office and his calm, reassuring, homespun integrity which carried us through and out of national mourning. We thank Thee for his honesty—his fearlessness—his down-to-earthness—his instinctive touch with all the people and his deep and practical faith in God.

We thank Thee, also, our Father, for his influence as a Senator and for the influence of the Senate upon his subsequent life and service. We celebrate the significant impact which colleagues and peers in this body as well as the Senate as a whole had in equipping him for the Vice Presidency and his unique Presidency. Grant, dear God, that the Senate may continue to produce leadership of excellence and relevance. In the name of Him by whose divine appointment each of us serves. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 9, 1984

Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts.—Zechariah 4: 6.

GREAT GOD OF LOVE, whose purpose is to unite all things in Messiah, the words of prophet Zechariah remind us of human inadequacy and dependence upon Thee. As the national election dominates our thinking, we pray for unity in the Nation and in the Senate. We have everything to lose by division and everything to gain by unity.

Thank Thee Lord, for our two party political system, for the dedicated men and women who conceived it and for the Biblical truth which inspired and motivated it. Thank Thee for the diversity in our Republic—the essence of its greatness—and for the thousands of agendas implicit in that pluralism. With all our party loyalty and competition, save us Lord from alienation and polarization. May the common welfare transcend secondary issues. When the election is over, dear God, let it not be a case of "the operation was successful but the patient died." May we take seriously what it means to be the United States of America.

In the name of Him whose love is all inclusive. Amen.

FRIDAY, MAY 11, 1984

FATHER IN HEAVEN, this weekend we celebrate mothers. Thank Thee for those blessed women whose sacrificial care influenced our lives from conception and whose relentless love protected us throughout our days. Thank Thee for mothers who remain with us. We honor them and we praise Thee for mothers who have left us for their home in Heaven. May their memories encourage and strengthen us and guide us. Save us from ever being or doing or saying that which would dishonor or disappoint those who have meant so much to each of us. May our lives be a reward to their faithfulness and may all mothers enjoy special blessings on their day of recognition. In Jesus' name. Amen.

MONDAY, MAY 14, 1984

Lord, Thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever Thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, Thou art God . . . Let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us; and establish Thou the work of our hands upon us . . . .
—Psalm 90: 1, 2, 17.

INFINITE, ETERNAL GOD, "in whom we live and move and have our being." we thank Thee for this psalm of Moses. May we realize that this giant in history lived in this awareness. Help us to see that it was this view by which he lived which assured his greatness as emancipator, prophet, lawgiver and leader. Grant to the leadership of this Nation the same perspective. In the name of Moses' God. Amen.

TUESDAY, MAY 15, 1984

Why do the nations conspire, and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and his anointed, saying, "Let us burst their bonds asunder, and cast their cords from us."—Psalm 2: 1-3.

JEHOVAH GOD, CREATOR OF ALL THINGS, the psalmist asks a penetrating question. Planets in their courses rotate and resolve in strict conformity to Thy order; plants, animals, and sea life function instinctively according to the pattern Thou hast ordained. Why is it that man alone, in all the universe, resists and violates Thy law? Not only does he transgress, but rationalization disobedience, he transposes values, making evil good, sin acceptable; rejecting absolutes, he treats God's law as a relic of the past.

Thank Thee, gracious God, for freedom of choice. Forgive us for abusing that freedom and remind us that freedom without responsibility is anarchy. We pray in the name of Him whose perfect manhood conformed to Thy will. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 16, 1984

ALMIGHTY GOD, JUDGE OF ALL THE EARTH AND PERFECT IN THY JUSTICE, we beseech Thee for the Members of the Senate and all public servants. Make us aware that our ultimate accountability is to Thee.

Thy work declares that we have no secrets from Thee; that Thou dost know our thoughts afar off and the words yet unspoken on our tongue. Thou dost see not only what we do but why we do it. Put a watch on our motivation. Imbue us with the desire and determination to act in ways pleasing to Thee. Help us to think God's thoughts after Him knowing that as we conform to Thy will we shall most certainly fulfill our responsibility to the people.

Fill our hearts, O God, with a passion for Thy glory, through Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

THURSDAY, MAY 17, 1984

LOVING FATHER, this is a place of great power, and powerful people usually suffer in silence. They grieve alone; they weep alone; they confront personal need and inadequacy alone. Our culture does not permit people of power to admit to weakness or vulnerability. So we pray for those in our large family who may be hurting—where there is alienation, bring reconciliation; where there is illness in body or emotion, bring healing; if there be a child or youth in trouble, restore that one to the family; where there is financial difficulty, provide out of Thy resources; where there is grief, give comfort.

It would be out of place for us to go around asking each other if he or she is hurting, but we can be kind to one another. We can be sensitive and loving to one another. Let Thy love be shed abroad, and Thy peace rule in our hearts. In the name of Him who healed with touch. Amen.

FRIDAY, MAY 18, 1984

FATHER IN HEAVEN, as the end of this busy week nears we remember our families. Grant that these next 2 days, in spite of all the responsibility which Senators bear, may be a time of family unity, strengthening and maturing love. Senators are important people—important to constituents—important to the Nation and the world—but also very important to their families. Grant them grace not to take themselves so seriously in their work that they transmit senatorial importance into their homes. Help them to be loving, thoughtful, caring spouses and parents this weekend.

Help us all Lord, who are privileged to work in this place, never to be carried away by self-importance. May we remember that we are servants of the servants of the people. In the name of the Servant who washed His disciples' feet. Amen.

MONDAY, MAY 21, 1984

Commit thy works unto the Lord, and thy thoughts shall be established.—Proverbs 16: 3.

GOD OF GRACE AND GLORY, pressure begins to build: 5 days to Memorial Day recess—65 working days to target date for adjournment—ponderous issues to resolve—partisanship increasing—the relentless passing of time—and over all the imminence of conventions and elections. But this is the American way; and as our Founding Fathers needed Thy support and direction, no less do we.

Father in Heaven, give to the leadership special wisdom, understanding and patience, as they steer the Senate through troubled waters ahead. Grant to Senators up for reelection, wisdom to do what is proper to be elected—and courage to do what is right even at political risk.

Grant, O God, that as November nears, and the pressure grows, the Senators will fulfill their responsibility in ways worthy of the trust placed in them by the people. In the name of Him who was Truth Incarnate. Amen.

TUESDAY, MAY 22, 1984

GOD OF THE NATIONS, who has ordained governments as Thy ministers for good, we thank Thee for our political system, born out of profound struggle. We thank Thee that the people are sovereign and that public servants must defend their records at regular intervals. We pray for those Members of the

Senate whose records will be tested in November. Help them to distinguish between what must be done here and now and what can better wait for the next Congress. Give them grace to deal with the tension between their perception of what the people want and the real issues which will be determinative.

Loving Father, help the people to understand and appreciate the ambivalence and struggle which our system imposes upon incumbents. Help the people to make their judgments upon the basis of integrity rather than single issues. Guide the Senators who are candidates—give special wisdom to their organizations and help them raise the funds necessary for their campaigns. In His name in whom resides all authority. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 23, 1984

FATHER IN HEAVEN, we invoke Thy presence in this sanctuary this morning. Nothing here is hidden from Thee: The thoughts of our hearts—the word yet unspoken on our tongues—the desires which we dare not share with anyone—personal needs which we do not want to admit even to ourselves.

Thou knowest, Lord, the motives which rule our actions. Save us from unworthy motivation which would be dilatory or destructive. Thou knowest the human chemistry which influences this body making it explosive or peaceful—frustrating or freeing legislation.

May Thy love fill us with compassion for each other and the will to finish the task that must be done. In Thy name. Amen.

THURSDAY, MAY 24, 1984

GRACIOUS FATHER IN HEAVEN, may Thy presence grace the Senate today. We face that familar situation where the clock seems almost an adversary—much to be done and recess bearing down upon us. As the frustrating combination of too much to do and too little time presses in upon Senator Baker and Senator Byrd, as well as every Member of the Senate, we ask for Thy special intervention. Thou art not a God far off and indifferent to Thy servants, but One who knoweth all things and doest all things well. If a sparrow does not fall without Thy knowledge, certainly there is no detail of our lives, personally or corporately, about which Thou art uncaring. We pray that Thou will intervene in our midst today as God alone is able and help bring these closing hours to satisfactory resolution. For the sake of the personal and family needs of Senators and Senate staffs and for Thy good pleasure. Amen.

MONDAY, JUNE 4, 1984

The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord, and against his anointed, saying, "Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us."—**Psalm 2: 2, 3.**

LORD GOD OF HISTORY, the psalmist asks a penetrating question. Why do people, nations, and rulers resist. Thee and Thy law? Since the Tower of Babel mankind has been organizing God out of his life individually and institutionally. Even the church organizes God out of its life.

Dear God, let that not be true of the leadership of our Nation. As our Founding Fathers looked to Thee for protection and guidance, so may we today. As they depend upon Thee to set our Nation on a course honoring to God and dedicated to the common good, so may we. Grant, O God, that these sacred precincts may be a place of devine approval and blessing to all peoples. In the name of the Lord. Amen.

TUESDAY, JUNE 5, 1984

GRACIOUS FATHER IN HEAVEN, we acknowledge the abundance which Thou hast lavished upon us. We live in luxury compared to most people in the world including many in our land—some just few blocks from this building. We always have more than enough of everything while most never have enough of anything. We live in comfort, freedom, and security—many are oppressed, persecuted, perennially unsafe and in bondage. Help us, Lord, never to be isolated from—insulated against—or indifferent to those who suffer indignity poverty, hunger, and disease without relief.

The New Testament identifies ingratitude with godlessness—save us from the idolatry of things and help us never to take for granted common benefits and presume upon Thy goodness. May we be compassionate and unselfish in our private lives and in our public responsibility. In the name of Him who was Love Incarnate. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6, 1984

GOD OF PEACE, today we remember the triumph and tragedy of D-day 40 years ago. We recall with heavy hearts those who laid down their lives in that critical encounter. We commend to Thee their loved ones who remain to spend this day in memory not only of their loss but also of the trauma endured by that loss.

We pray a special blessing upon those who are reminded of the agony, the suffering, and the brutality they witnessed.

We express to Thee our gratitude for those who planned and implemented D-day and its influence in accelerating the end of hostilities. As we celebrate war; we honor peace. Help us to dedicate ourselves to peace and to all that makes for peace among ourselves, in our homes, among races and ethnic groups and nations.

In the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

THURSDAY, JUNE 7, 1984

GOD OF ORDER, TRUTH AND JUSTICE, despite my political naivete, I sense that the leadership of the Senate identifies with the feelings of Cicero, the great Roman statesman of the first century B.C., when he said, "The first of June and nothing done by the Senate."

Thou knowest all things, omniscient God. The future is as plain to Thee as the past. No detail escapes Thy notice. Days pass swiftly and they are few before recess. Give to the leadership Thy wisdom in scheduling priorities involving many agendas, all of which are important to those whose they are.

Lord of life, Thy word declares, *A man's mind plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps.*—Proverbs 16: 9 (RSV). Guide the Senate in its business so that in these next 3 weeks everything that ought to be done will be. To the glory of Thy name. Amen.

FRIDAY, JUNE 8, 1984

FATHER IN HEAVEN, the Senate is a place of extraordinary pressure in the best of circumstances, and this pressure concentrates in the offices of the leadership. Present conditions compound tension: a long recess nears, fewer legislative sessions than normal this year, political conventions imminent, and a national election a few months away. Now we are at the end of a week in which it has been impossible to do business as usual, and issues of cosmic significance internationally as well as urgent domestic concern demand decisions. Gracious God, we need the intervention of Thy presence here today.

It is conventional at a time like this, Lord, to think of prayer and spiritual matters as soft and impractical, without relevance to the hard realities of government. Dear God, remind us that government serves by divine appointment. We thank Thee for the resources of wisdom, strength, and patience with which Thou art willing and able to empower us, individually and corporately, to complete our tasks efficiently, consistent with truth, justice, and the welfare of all peoples. Gracious Lord, demonstrate Thy relevance to us and be honored in our midst. Amen.

MONDAY, JUNE 11, 1984

I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have my being. May my mediation be pleasing unto Him, for I rejoice in my Lord.—Psalm 104: 33, 34.

GOD OF ABRAHAM, ISAAC AND ISRAEL, OF JESUS, THE APOSTLES AND THE CHURCH, we thank Thee for the weekend with its opportunity to worship, to be with families to rest, relax, and play. We thank Thee for a new day and a new week in which to serve Thee, the people, and each other. Grant wisdom and strength to Thy servants that this may be a week of achievement which brings satisfaction to all who labor here. To Thy honor and glory we pray. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13, 1984

FATHER IN HEAVEN, Senators are weary—the staff are weary—there is much to be done and time is short. Issues are critical—emotions are deep—the pressure is on. Gracious God, we need Thee whether we realize it or not—we need Thy wisdom and power. Loving Father, impress upon us Your nearness, Your grace, Your instant and constant availability. In the name of Thy Son. Amen.

THURSDAY, JUNE 14, 1984

GRACIOUS GOD, here is the most powerful deliberative body in the world—perhaps in history. The Members work hard for long hours—often at great personal sacrifice. Hundreds of laws are passed yet little changes. The family continues to disintegrate. Divorce, alcoholism, drug abuse, poverty, crime, violence, wars increase epidemically. The birth rate is highest among 9 to 15 year olds. Hundreds of thousands of babies are aborted. Teenagers seek fulfillment in alcohol and drugs. Drunk driving and suicide take more and more teenage lives.

Thank Thee, Father, for faithful public servants who, despite disappointment and seeming futility, devote themselves to public responsibility. Keep the Senators from discouragement. Help them discern, behind the physical and the temporal, the spiritual warfare which is designed to frustrate, divide, and destroy. Strengthen them against all that debilitates and sustain them in their dedication. In the name of Him, Incarnate Love, who suffered total rejection and abuse from His contempories, Amen.

FRIDAY, JUNE 15, 1984

Honor thy father and thy mother; that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.—Exodus 20: 12.

FATHER IN HEAVEN, Sunday we celebrate fathers. Bless those in the Senate who are fathers. Grants that we may appreciate the importance of fatherhood in preserving family and home, in preparing children and youth for life. Help us to realize that however we may succeed in life—no success compensates for failure as fathers. To fail in a career is a one generation problem—to fail as a father is to affect generations to come. Father God, help us to take seriously our responsibility as fathers and to give priority to that opportunity. In Jesus' name. Amen.

MONDAY, JUNE 18, 1984

Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God . . . .—I John 4: 7.

FATHER IN HEAVEN, we live in a world that is starved for love. Children, unloved by parents, are exploited by greed. Elderly die of loneliness, forgotten and unloved. There are men and women who work here who feel that no one loves them.

God of love, help us never to forget that Thou dost love us with impartial, unconditional, eternal, perfect love. Remind us that there is nothing we can do to make Thee love us more—there is nothing we can do to make Thee love us less—for Thou art love. And Father, if we forget Thy love, help us to remember the man on the cross. In the name of Him who was Incarnate Love. Amen.

TUESDAY, JUNE 19, 1984

God of wisdom and knowledge, the Senate confronts the awesome burden of decision concerning national defense, which Congress is bound to provide—the common welfare, which Congress is bound to promote—a decision which inextricably involves the national debt and deficit. Grant to the Senators Thy wisdom as they struggle with these issues and the ambivalence of pragmatism and principle in their souls. As time moves inexorably, pressure increases, tension mounts and long hours lead to exhaustion—a vicious cycle that diminishes ability to make sound decisions. Gracious God, help the Senate resolve these issues in a way consistent with truth, justice and peace. In the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20, 1984

Preserve me, O God for in Thee do I put my trust.—Psalm 16: 1.

Gracious God, these words of the psalmist seemed so relevant to me today as I sat in the Capitol Prayer Room looking at the stained glass window where they are engraved around the figure of Gen. George Washington kneeling at Valley Forge. Help them to be real in this Chamber today.

Father in Heaven, we accept with gratitude our diversity and the freedom to express it as the very essence of our political system. The strength of our unity is our diversity. We accept with gratitude the struggle endemic in the many differences and their expression in such a system as competition and compromise resolve into cooperation. Grant special grace to the Senators, strong as are their convictions, weary as they are in body and mind, to bring to conclusion the present struggle. May the breath of Thy Spirit renew and refresh physically, emotionally, and mentally all who labor here. In the name of Him who said, *Come unto Me all ye who labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest.*—Matthew 11: 28. Amen.

MONDAY, JUNE 25, 1984

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths.—Proverbs 3: 5, 6 (RSV).

GOD OF TRUTH grant that this promise from the wisdom book of the Old Testament will be meaningful to the Senators this week. After one of the most stressful weeks this year, they have 5 days to accomplish a great deal before recess. Make the truth of this proverb real to each Senator. Help these powerful people to realize there is a resource which transcends the finest of which the human mind is capable. Gracious God, help the Senators to believe that after they have done their best thinking, to trust and acknowledge Thee is the way of wisest leadership. In the name of Him who trusted His Heavenly Father implicitly. Amen.

TUESDAY, JUNE 26, 1984

FATHER IN HEAVEN, we thank Thee for our pages, for their service to the Senate, for the miles they walk to deliver messages and the hours they devote to their tasks. We commend to Thy gracious care those who have served faithfully and will be leaving us or have already returned home.

We pray for the pages who are with us for the summer. Grant that their experience will be constructive and edifying. Protect them against any destructive influence and strengthen them in their desire to do a good job, to please and honor their sponsors. Encourage their parents in the assurance that they are respected and loved—that there are those who take serious interest in their well-being. Bless the pages, Lord, and help us all to make this experience one that builds character and equips them for their futures. In Thy name and for Thy honor, we pray. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 27, 1984

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.—Psalm 46: 1.

ALMIGHTY GOD, this body is like a huge magnet attracting the problems of the world—enormous problems of cosmic magnitude, involving nations and the destiny of the people of the world . . . small problems, involving one family or one person. All people who work here spend all of their public lives and much of their private lives in the vortex of these macro and micro problems.

Whether it is war and peace, or a missing social security clerk—thousands unemployed, or one constituent out of work—poverty, hunger, disease of millions, or one lost child—somehow all problems find their way to a Senator. Father in Heaven, give Thy grace to the Senators and their staffs, all of whom have their own problems, that they may navigate through this sea of trouble, to render just and equitable judgments, and to fulfill Thy purpose for their public service. In the name of Him who bore the burdens of the world in His own body on the cross. Amen.

THURSDAY, JUNE 28, 1984

For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south. But God is the judge: He putteth down one, and setteth up another.—Psalm 75: 6, 7.

SOVEREIGN LORD, we pray for the Democratic Convention. In these closing weeks of preparation, be with those who are responsible for arrangements. Guide them as logistics are finalized and grant safe travel to leadership, delegates, and the press as they journey to San Francisco and return.

Thou knowest Lord, the forces that will conspire to harass or exploit the convention and we ask that the Democratic Party may be spared any exigency or confrontation that would frustrate or embarrass. Protect all who participate from illness and bodily harm. May controversies be resolved in ways consistent with the best and finest political tradition.

Endow the leaders with wisdom, strength and patience and may the highest purposes be realized and Thy will be done. To Thy honor and glory we pray. Amen.

FRIDAY, JUNE 29, 1984

They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles, they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.—Isaiah 40: 31.

FATHER GOD, our culture celebrates the workaholic—one who works 7 days a week, 12 hours a day. In our human pride, we forget that even God rested after 6 days of work. Help the Senators to be aware of their responsibility to themselves. Help them not to underestimate the punishment their bodies, minds, and hearts have suffered under the stress of these last 2 weeks. Grant them discernment as to their recess schedules—to cancel appointments if necessary, that they may get adequate rest. Help them, Lord, to realize they cannot fulfill their mandate if they burn out or break down.

The Lord bless you and keep you: the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you: The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace.—Numbers 6: 24–26. Amen.

MONDAY, JULY 23, 1984

"Praise God from whom all blessings flow."

GOD, OUR FATHER, as the Senate enters the final phase of the 98th Congress, with less than 50 working days to adjournment, manifest Thy presence throughout the Capitol. When tension polarizes between legislation and election, give discernment, wisdom, and courage to the Senators to make principled, rather than political decisions.

We praise Thee, good Lord, for the strong leadership the Senate has enjoyed throughout the 97th and 98th Congresses. We thank Thee for the 18 years of effective, efficient, productive public service Senator Baker has given. We celebrate his integrity—his objectivity—his patience—his fairness—his courage—his balance—and his unflappability. Grant O Lord, that these final days of his leadership will be days of significant achievement which will fulfill his desires and crown his Senate years with total satisfaction. We pray in the name of Him who finished the work He entered history to do. Amen.

TUESDAY, JULY 24, 1984

"Praise God from whom all blessings flow."

FATHER IN HEAVEN, we declare our gratitude for the success of the Democratic Convention. We thank Thee that no outside interference disrupted the agenda and that no violence caused accident or injury to those who attended, leaders, delegates, press, and observers. We thank Thee for the unity which prevailed, despite the possibility of division.

We praise Thee, God, for our political system, for the vision of our founders, and for the fact that it continues, despite its failures, as the system which guarantees security and freedom for all citizens. Forgive our failures and help us to work our system in ways that will overrule human greed, pride, and selfishness which deprive any group or individual of God-given rights. In the name of Him who loved and served all people impartially and unconditionally. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 25, 1984

"Praise God from whom all blessings flow."

RIGHTEOUS GOD, we are amazed at the profusion of variety, with its beauty and balance, which Thou hast built into life. We accept with profound gratitude the diversity among human beings and the special propensity America has had to accepting, absorbing, and honoring this diversity without destroying the identities of culture, language, and ethos.

Help us Lord, to guard this heritage and never violate it.

But Father in Heaven, may we not allow pluralism to degenerate into valuelessness, mediocrity, and monotony. Help us to understand that tolerance is not a virtue to one who has no convictions. Spare us the meaninglessness which is indiscriminating in all its judgments and like a garbage can accepts anything. Deliver us from a way of life which quantifies everything and qualifies nothing and help us to realize that without standards, values, and rules, society is anarchy. In His name who is Truth Incarnate. Amen.

FRIDAY, JULY 27, 1984

All glory and honor and praise to Thee, O God.

LOVING FATHER IN HEAVEN, we thank Thee for life's common blessings. Help us never to take them for granted as though we deserved them more than those who are deprived. We thank Thee for families, homes, friends, good neighbors, and a place of privilege in which to labor. We thank Thee for good food, pure water which we enjoyed yesterday, will enjoy today, and have the prospect of enjoying in our tomorrows. We thank Thee for health and strength, for good minds and sound bodies. May we who always have more than enough of everything remember with compassion those who never have enough of anything.

We pray for the oppressed, the persecuted—for those who are displaced, hungry, and homeless—for children who suffer the tragic effects of malnutrition and their parents who suffer helplessly with them. We remember the unemployed and those experienceing futility. Grant O God, that we who are free from such inhuman indignities may respond in love to those who hurt. In Jesus' name. Amen.

MONDAY, JULY 30, 1984

Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless His holy name.—Psalm 103: 1.

LORD GOD OF JUSTICE AND TRUTH, thank Thee for an orderly universe which operates according to predictable laws making it possible to measure hours, days, weeks, months and years. It is frightening Lord, to contemplate our confusion if this were not true. Help us to find the justice, truth, and order of God for our own lives, individually, and corporately.

Father in Heaven, we pray for the Temporary Select Committee on Committee Reform, and its chairman, Senator Quayle, in its inaugural hearing tomorrow. Give members and witnesses wisdom and courage as they wrestle with committee structures and practices. Help them to correct procedures about which everyone complains but no one wants to change. Guide according to Thy will O Lord, that the Senate may be efficient and effective in its work. In Jesus' name. Amen.

TUESDAY, JULY 31, 1984

GOD OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, Thou knowest the pressures which bear upon public servants from without and within: from without, pressure from constituents, private interests, party, peers; from within, ambivalence, uncertainty, and expediency versus principle.

God of truth, save us from reducing our political system to the numbers game. Help Senators to weigh opinion as well as count it. We know that perception influences action and much public perception about government and issues is contrary to the facts. Give to all public servants the ability to communicate what the people need to hear, not just what they want to hear.

God of light, grant grace to the Senators that they may have courage for the right when convinced that the majority is wrong. Give them strength to resist every pressure that would compromise their integrity and power to lead when cynicism and disinformation prejudice the minds of the people. For Thy glory. Amen.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 2, 1984

ALMIGHTY GOD, we respond to Thee in many different ways. Some deny Thee altogether—others acknowledge Thee but ignore Thee. Some take Thee seriously—others tip the hat to Thee occasionally. Some worship and adore Thee—others could not care less. Some love Thee—others fear Thee. Some know Thee—others feel Thou art beyond knowing. Some see Thee as a living reality—others as an impersonal force.

But whatever our attitude, Father in Heaven, rarely do we think of Thee as practical or relevant to our personal or corporate problems. Help us to understand that Thou art a God who cares—who seeks us—who longs for us. Help us to see that Thou art the source of all wisdom and power—that Thou art an infinite resource available to meet our needs. Forgive our indifference and grant us grace to call upon Thee however great or small our problems. Help us to see in the cross the measure of Your love, Your nearness, Your availability. In the name of Him whose mission was that of a sacrificial servant. Amen.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 3, 1984

SOVEREIGN GOD, LORD OF HISTORY, we thank Thee for our Republic. It did not become great and strong in spite of its political system but because of it. More than 200 years of operation has proved there is no better way to run a country. Thank Thee for our democracy.

Forgive the criticism in the private sector which seems not to understand how democracy works, expecting it to be efficient like a dictatorship. We are amazed dear God, considering the thousands of agendas—international, national, regional, State, local, and personal which converge upon this body—that it works at all. Forgive the cynicism generated by failure to appreciate the genius of a system which attempts to respond to massive demands, many of which are conflicting.

As the usual pressure and tension build in the days approaching a long recess, help the Senators to be patient with each other and grant special grace and wisdom for productive final days. In the name of Him who never hurried despite relentless opposition and resistance. Amen.

MONDAY, AUGUST 6, 1984

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?—Psalm 27: 1.

GRACIOUS FATHER IN HEAVEN, this is pressure week. Thank Thee for the objectivity, the fairness, and the patience of the leadership. Give them special wisdom as they guide the Senate through these days. Help the Senate not to be busy rearranging the pictures on the wall while the house is burning down. Help them not to play games with rules and procedures which frustrate and abort good legislation.

Deliver the Senators from personal motivation which would sacrifice the common good. Purge our actions from all that violates truth and righteousness and justice. Grant O Lord, that out of these days will come decisions which are the best for Nation and world. We pray this in the name of the Righteous One Who lived and died for truth and justice. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 8, 1984

OUR FATHER WHO ART IN HEAVEN, You are involved in the infinitesimal as much as the infinite—the atom as much as the universe. Whether it's a sparrow falling to the ground or an empire dissolving, each is the object of Your unfailing love. Nothing touches our lives personally or nationally which is not of concern to You. Thank You for Your unconditional love.

Father, there is nothing about the Senate, the Nation, and the world, which You do not know. Help the Senate in its work today and tomorrow to accomplish that which is important as You know the situation past, present, and future.

Loving Lord, give the Senators discernment to distinguish what ought to be done from what can wait. Free them from extraneous matters and guide them in essentials today and tomorrow. In Jesus' name. Amen.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 9, 1984

SOVEREIGN LORD OF HISTORY AND THE NATIONS, we pray for the Republican Convention. Guide those who make final arrangements that all agendas may function efficiently and productively. Grant safety to all who travel to and from Dallas—the leadership, delegates, the press, and observers. Discourage any destructive forces which would frustrate or embarrass the meeting.

We pray, Gracious God, special protection for President and Mrs. Reagan, Vice President and Mrs. Bush, those Senators and their families who are in attendance. Give wisdom to the chairman and those responsible for order and security, and may Thy presence and blessing rest upon the Convention Center, the hotels, and in the hearts of all who participate. Thy will be done in Dallas as it is in Heaven. For Thy glory and honor. Amen.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 10, 1984

FATHER IN HEAVEN, thank You for Your gracious blessing during the past 2 stressful weeks. As Senators disperse for recess, they face heavy duties in their home States with constituents and election campaign responsibilities. Help them, dear Lord, to remember their responsibility to themselves and their families. May they take time for rest and relaxation. May they take time for leisure with their families that relationships will be nurtured and strengthened. Protect them as they travel and return them safely to Washington refreshed and restored, physically and emotionally, prepared for the final weeks of the 98th Congress. In His name Who invited, *Come unto Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.*—Matthew 11: 28. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1984

There is no power but of God, the powers that be are ordained of God.—Romans 13: 1.

GOD OF HISTORY, LORD OF EMPIRES AND NATIONS, FATHER OF US ALL, we come to You in earnest supplication for the Senate as it opens on these final weeks before adjournment. You know all things Lord, the future is as plain to You as the past, the end of history as its beginning. You know our hearts—we have no secrets from you. You know our hopes, our desires, our aspirations, our ambitions, our apprehensions and fears, our certainty and our confusion.

Father in Heaven, You know the inescapable ambivalance built in to our political system—the inevitable tension between legislation and an imminent national election. Grant special wisdom to our leadership and courage to the Senators to do what is right despite political implications. Help them not to allow these closing days to be merely cosmetic—a game of charades with critical issues held in limbo awaiting a more favorable political climate.

Gracious God, may these final hours of the 98th Congress be infused with integrity, truth, and justice. We pray this in the name of Him who followed truth when challenged by the most powerful political and religious forces Amen.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1984

GRACIOUS FATHER IN HEAVEN, at the end of the 98th Congress a great statesman will retire, Senator Jennings Randolph. We offer to You, dear God, our profound gratitude for giving our Nation such a faithful, productive public servant. We thank You for his four decades of dedicated, effective service on the Hill. We thank You for the remarkable breadth of his interests and concerns—education, youth, aviation, commerce, human rights, the arts, among many others—and for the influence of his leadership in so many areas of the private sector. We remember with deep appreciation the sense of respect, dignity, privilege, and honor in which he holds the Senate.

Father God, this gentleman—this strong, compassionate, thoughtful, kind man of integrity and faith this gracious friend—will be sorely missed. We commend him to Your loving providence and direction in his years of retirement. May they be as fruitful and blessed as were his years of tireless involvement in public affairs. In the name of the Lord he reverences and serves so faithfully, we pray. Amen.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1984

ALMIGHTY GOD, strong men and women, qualified to bear heavy responsibility for national affairs, in their preoccupation with their work are inclined to carry the burden alone. They believe in You but think of religion as impracticable and God as irrelevant to the business at hand. God of all power and all wisdom, help Your servants to comprehend that you are imminent, immediately available, and willing to provide superhuman resources which will make possible the impossible, In tense times and stressful hours, fill hearts with love and insight and peace. Demonstrate the power of Your presence and the perfection of Your guidance—dissolve deadlock and frustration. Relieve uptightness and grant warm hearts, cool heads, and unity in diversity. In the name of Him who is Incarnate Love, Amen.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1984

The Lord is gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger and of great mercy. The Lord is good to all; and His tender mercies are over all His works. All Thy works shall praise Thee, O Lord . . . . —Psalm 145: 8–10.

MIGHTY GOD, these are difficult days for Members of the Senate and their staffs—the pressure of issues which demand attention—decisions which must be made—action which cannot be delayed—all in the shadow of inescapable ambivalence imposed by an impending election. As political campaigns heat up and party loyalty increasingly polarizes the Senate, we ask You, Lord, to strengthen the Senators' resolve to deliver on their commitment to the people. May national purpose and unity prevail despite diversity and confrontation. Anoint the leadership with extraordinary understanding, patience and wisdom, in the determination to make these closing days constructive and productive. Loving God, work Your will in this place—in spite of us, if necessary—but in fulfillment of Your perfect way in these circumstances. We pray in the name of Him who is truth. Amen.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1984

FATHER IN HEAVEN, we pray for the 28 Senators up for reelection, over whom hangs the heavy responsibility for their campaigns while the Senate continues in session. They do not campaign because it is fun—they campaign because they must—our political system requires it. You know their hearts Lord, how difficult it must be to concentrate on Senate business when circumstances at home compete for their attention. You know how great the temptation Lord, to abdicate responsibility in the Senate and concentrate on the constituency. Thank you, gracious God, for public servants who refuse to yield to such temptation and at some political risk fulfill the obligation for which the people sent them to Washington.

Sovereign Lord, help the people to understand the dilemma which our system imposes upon incumbent Senators at such a time as this. May the electorate be reminded that though our system has many problems it is still the best in the world. We pray in the name of Him in whom is all power in Heaven and on Earth. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1984

FATHER IN HEAVEN, the Senate is losing some very good men at the end of this session. We are profoundly grateful for the 23 years of effective, loyal public service given by Senator John Tower. We thank You for leading this eminently qualified university professor to the Senate and for his unsurpassed devotion to the mandate which brought him here. We thank You for the strong leadership he has given the committees on which he has served and for his perseverance and patience in managing legislation through to fruitful consummation. We thank You not only for his dedication to public service, but for his active involvement in significant ways in the private sector. Gracious Lord, as he enters the next phase of his productive life, may he and his family enjoy the richest of divine blessing. We pray in the name of Him who is Lord of Life. Amen.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1984

There is no power but of God; the powers that be are ordained of God.—Romans 13: 1.

GOD OF TRUTH, JUSTICE AND LOVE, with heavy hearts we watch the way religion is being treated as an issue in the political campaign. We recall that some of the bitterest wars and most flagrant obscenities in history have involved religion.

Gracious God, we pray that the restraint of our Founding Fathers, most of whom took God seriously, may be true today. We appreciate their religious conviction as expressed in the first amendment and their concern that Government not be involved in religion.

Father of us all, may we heed the counsel of Jesus in His sensitivity to the reality of the secular and the sacred, when He said, *Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's and unto God the things that are God's.*—Matthew 22: 21. May this distinction be honored in present circumstances.

Grant dear God, to us who profess faith in You, that our practice will conform to our profession, as we remember the

Bible's admonition. *If one say, "I love God" and hates his brother, he is a liar: for he that loves not his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?*—I John 4: 20. Grant us grace to practice love, the supreme evidence of authentic faith. In His name, who is love. Amen.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1984

ALMIGHTY GOD, SOVEREIGN LORD OF HISTORY, receive our gratitude today for another strong and effective public servant who will be leaving the Senate at the end of the 98th Congress. We thank You for Senator Paul Tsongas, for his considerable influence and contribution in the Senate, on committees and in debate. We thank You for his incisive intellect—his courage—his integrity. But most of all, we thank You for his inspiration and challenge concerning the priority of home and family. May that inspiration strengthen all of us in an environment where spouse and children can be so easily sacrificed. As he reenters the private sphere, we pray for him and his family good health and the richest of divine blessing. In Jesus' name. Amen.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1984

ALMIGHTY GOD, no one will be more greatly missed when the Senate convenes for the 99th Congress in January than the Secretary of the Senate. We offer to You our praise and gratitude for this public servant who behind the scenes has rendered such an incalculable contribution. We thank You for William R. Hildenbrand, who served his country in two wars, spent 2 years as a staff member in the House of Representatives and devoted 24 years to the Senate.

We acknowledge with gratitude his extensive and unsurpassed knowledge of Senate procedures and his profound concern for its efficient and productive operation. May he know, gracious God, that he has earned the respect, affection and trust of peers, associates and all who labor in the Senate. As he enters private life he does so with the love and best wishes of all of us who enjoy the privilege of working with him. May God's richest providence and blessing go with him and remain with him throughout his future years. In Your powerful name, O Lord. Amen.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1984

OMNISCIENT GOD, WHO KNOWS ALL THINGS, all of us who labor in this place need Your presence, Your love and peace. You know what is in the heart of each of us in these stressful days. You know those who are troubled—frustrated—angry—anxious. You know the fearful heart, the lonely heart, the broken heart. You know those who feel forsaken or rejected or guilty. You know those who are arrogant, impatient, or resentful.

Where there is alienation or estrangement give reconciliation and healing. In Your gracious, forebearing love, touch each life, each family, each person who serves here from the greatest to the least, the most powerful to the totally powerless. Dear God infuse this place with Your mighty love. Amen.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1984

FATHER IN HEAVEN, we are thankful for all that was accomplished last week but mindful of all that remains to be done. We are grateful for what ever agreements have been reached which will encourage legislation. You know, Father, the human penchant for letting things go until the last minute and the stress that builds as adjournment nears. As these two agenda-filled weeks confront the Senate, make known Your presence and power, Your wisdom and direction.

We confess, Father, the ease with which we departmentalize faith. We relegate it to the Sabbath and the sanctuary or sometimes when personal crisis arises. Help us to realize that faith is for the road—the daily round—the common task—the business at hand—the critical moment. Help all the Senators to be open to the real possibility of divine intervention and relief when heat and pressure build and resolution seems remote if not impossible. Grant, dear God, in spite of us if necessary, a smooth—efficient—achievement-filled 2 weeks, free of rancor and frustration for Thy honor and the benefit of all. Amen.

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 25, 1984

GOD OF JUSTICE, PEACE AND LOVE, when we consider the hundreds, if not thousands of agendas which converge in the Senate, it is awesome that any issue is resolved. As constituent requests, local, State, regional, national and international needs, in addition to all the special interests, beg for attention, we wonder at the physical, intellectual and emotional capacities of public servants to process information and find agreement. Thank You Lord, for the understanding, resilience, spirit of cooperation and compromise, the patience, of leaders, Senators, and staffs. Thank You Lord for the unity which prevails midst such broad diversity. May the peace of God infuse this place and the love of God fill all hearts as the Senate pursues its monumental task. In the name of Incarnate Love, we pray. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1984

GOD OF ABRAHAM, ISSAC, AND ISRAEL, on the eve of Rosh Hashana, we celebrate the incalculable contribution Jews have made to history. We thank You for the light which this extraordinary people has shed upon the whole world—a light the darkness could not extinguish despite relentless efforts, generation after generation, century after century.

Four thousand years ago Lord, You promised Your servant Abraham that through his descendants all the families of the Earth would be blessed. Thank You for the fulfillment of that promise in their profound contribution to motherhood, family, music, art, drama, entertainment, literature, education, science, medicine, law, merchandizing and marketing, banking and finance. Thank You Lord for the immeasurable gift of Jews to history, despite incredible persecution, oppression, and suffering. Bless the Lord for His great people. Amen.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1984

God of grace and love, as relentless time moves inexorably, indifferent toward human frailty, enable the Senate to find its way through the clash of ideas and agendas to worthy resolution. Someone has said that it is better to be swallowed by a whale than to be nibbled to death by minnows. Dear God, keep us from allowing human caprice to consume precious minutes and substantive issues with trivia. Refresh weary minds as negotiations toughen and help Senators to arrive at beneficial agreements. Prevent principle from degenerating into personal animosity. Strengthen your servants, Lord, against attitudes toward each other which alienate and demean. However difficult the process under the pressure of demanding deadlines, let friendships be deepened, respect and admiration heightened, love and peace prevail. May the significance of Rosh Hashana benevolently infect this day. For the honor and glory of Your name, O Lord, and to the blessing of all. Amen.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1984

Father in Heaven, this morning I pray against the demon cynicism. All of us are vulnerable to this unproductive evil—people, press, public servants. May this negative, counterproductive attitude be dissolved in minds and hearts. Help the people understand that what is happening these stressful hours in the Senate is not simply Senators struggling for self interests—but elected officials, representing the people, their personal interests or the interests of their city, State, region. We know Father, that Senators, being human are never totally free from self interests, but the indictment that they are simply "political" in order to get elected is in actuality a testimony to their determination to represent their constituents.

Loving God, this will be a heavy day. Grace this place and these people with Your presence—Your peace—Your love. Demonstrate here today Your nearness and Your relevance to the struggle. In the Name of Him who is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Amen.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1984

With man it is impossible, but with God all things are possible.—Luke 18: 27.

SOVEREIGN GOD, DOER OF THE IMPOSSIBLE, we come to You in our extremity. You know all the facts past, present, and future. There is no detail of the present situation which is hidden from You. You know what is in our hearts: our concerns, our desires, our hopes, aborted plans, disappointments, discouragements, and frustrations—the sense of futility which at times haunts our best intentions. I pray for Your gracious intervention in this situation which will bring just resolution to the present stalemate. Help these 100 strong leaders to find agreement.

Thank You, Father, for our beloved majority leader and his many years of uncommon public service. Thank You for the strong, quiet, gentle, fair, tough, leadership Senator Baker has given. Grant, dear God, that his final days in the Senate will be days of satisfaction and fulfillment—which will be pleasant to memory. Make him aware of our respect, admiration, and affection. May all that is past be prologue to an even greater future. In the name of the Lord Whom he faithfully serves. Amen.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1984

FATHER IN HEAVEN, we invoke Thy presence in the Senate. The leadership desires adjournment this Friday, as does everyone else. It looks impossible but with You, O Lord, all things are possible. Here are one hundred strong leaders with deep convictions about crucial issues or they would not be here. They have a profound sense of accountability to the people, States, and regions they represent. We are grateful for a political system which brings such potentially explosive variables together in this powerful deliberative body. As disparate convictions collide, as irresistible force meets immovable object, we ask for Your intervention. Gracious God, we pray at this critical time in the Senate that You will guide, with Your wisdom and love, the Senators and their staffs so that a way will be found to dissolve differences and reach compromise which is just and beneficial to national unity and purpose. In the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1984

GOD OF THE NATIONS, Humpty Dumpty is on my mind again. He had a great fall and "all the kings horses and all the kings men" could not put him together again. We are jealous for the institution of the Senate of the United States. Senators come and go but the venerable institution must remain. We pray for its renewal and strengthening—may we all dedicate ourselves to its preservation. Grant, dear God, that affairs of the Senate will be conducted in ways that will repudiate the anti-history, anti-hero spirit which pervades so much of American life.

Father in Heaven, the Senators have worked hard and long and there is much frustration in this place. When bodies and minds are weary—when emotions are strained—it is easy for tongues to lose control. Restrain our speech from words that demean and destroy. Help us to respect, honor, love, and edify one another. In the name of Him who is Incarnate Love. Amen.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4, 1984

ALMIGHTY GOD, who knows and understands and cares, let Your healing, reviving love, touch the hearts of exhausted Senators and staffs for whom unrelenting work remains. Strengthen their bodies, renew their minds, quicken their spirits, that they may accomplish, efficiently and effectively, all that is required of them in these closing hours. Bless their spouses and children who also suffer at times like these, not only for their own sacrifices, but in their concern, sometimes fear, for the one they love who is under such great pressure.

Father in Heaven, when weariness overwhelms it is easy to assume that God does not care or that He is far away and irrelevant. In spite of our weak faith or no faith, prove Your nearness, Your wisdom, Your power in each life through the extreme stress of these final hours. We ask this in His name Who invited, *Come unto Me all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.*—Matthew 11: 28. Amen.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1984

LORD OF MERCY AND GRACE, Yom Kippur—Day of Atonement—reminds us that You are a God of love and forgiveness for which we are unspeakably grateful. This is a day for thanksgiving. Thank You for the privilege of working in this place and for the pleasure of associating with so many fine people. Thank You for our leadership, their strength and wisdom, their beautiful spirit of cooperation. Thank You for the Senators and their staffs. We pray especially for those who are up for reelection that You will guide them in their final days of campaigning and provide personal and financial resources to maximize their efforts.

Thank You, dear God, for all the other delightful people who make the Senate run—the officers and their staffs—those who labor so efficiently in the Congressional Record office. Thank You for committee staffs—for hard working friends in the cloak rooms, and for the pages. Thank You for elevator operators, subway workers, food service people, and all who work in maintenance inside and out. Thank You for the attending physician and associates, for the Architect and his staff.

We are profoundly grateful for those who provide security—whose jobs are routine day after day—and yet whose lives could be at risk any moment of the day or night when sudden crisis threatens. Thank You for the 20 years of faithful service of James Milton Powell, Chief of the Capitol Police. Bless him in his retirement. We commend to You our new Chief, James J. Carvino, and ask Your blessing upon him as he begins his new responsibility.

Thank You for the favor of each other's friendship, the joy of working together and thank You, Lord, for all Your blessings to all of us. Amen.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1984

Commit your way unto the Lord, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass.—Psalm 37: 5.

FATHER IN HEAVEN, we are here under duress, but we have imposed this upon ourselves. All of us would rather be some place else, doing something else. Plans have had to be changed, commitments canceled, families and others as well as ourselves disappointed. We invoke Your presence here today—Your wisdom—Your enablement—that deadlock may be broken, differences compromised, and agreement achieved. Gracious God, intervene in the deliberations and lead Congress to a true and just and wise resolution. We pray for the sake of Your honor and glory and the welfare of all. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1984

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths.—Proverbs 3: 5, 6 (RSV).

ALMIGHTY GOD OF ALL WISDOM AND ALL POWER, manifest Yourself to us today, Your availability, Your relevance, according to the proverb with which this prayer began. Enable the Senators to make God-room in their deliberations, their negotiations and decisions. As they struggle for compromise, protect them from personal animosities which alienate and delay resolution. Restrain their tongue from speaking words which will later be regretted and despite all the pressure, Lord, may their thoughts be always issue oriented. Direct their paths in the way of respect and love and peace to just and satisfactory ends. In the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1984

THANK YOU, HEAVENLY FATHER, for Your faithful providence over the Senate, the Congress, and the Nation these past 2 years. Thank You for Your love—Your grace and forgiveness when we have sinned—Your forbearance when we have been indifferent and unbelieving—Your patience when we have failed in attitude, word, or deed.

Thank You for all the fine friends with whom we have the privilege and pleasure of working. Thank You for the love and understanding of our families. Thank You Lord, for Your continued kindness and mercy. Thank You for adjournment.

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.—Numbers 6: 24–26. Amen.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1984

Word has just been received of the death of Senator Mattingly's brother. The Senator is with the family now in Indiana. Let us observe a moment of silence for them.

ALMIGHTY GOD, SOVEREIGN LORD OF THE UNIVERSE, CREATOR, SUSTAINER, CONSUMMATOR OF HISTORY, the prophet Isaiah declared that "the nations are like a drop from a bucket" to You. We see Earth from space as a blue marble and are aware of our tiny place in the cosmos. Yet You have extended Your preferential love toward us in the person of Your Son. You have created us free to choose and responsible for the consequences, yet in Your sovereignty You work with the human equation to bring to pass Your ultimate purposes for our benefit.

You know, gracious Lord, the complications of this extended session in aborted plans, family disappointments, rearrangement of schedules, added pressure of campaign commitments. We trust You to work in all of this for good to those who love You and are called according to Your purpose.

May Your name be hallowed—Your kingdom come—Your will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven. Keep us in Your loving care while we are absent one from another. Amen.

Prayers
at
Special Events

Invocation

at the

U.S. Senate Youth Program Luncheon

Room 1202, Dirksen Office Building

Wednesday, February 2, 1983

Almighty God, Father of all peoples of all ages, we thank Thee for the youth gathered here. We thank Thee for their lives, their energy, their intelligence, their commitment to and love for our Nation. We thank Thee and praise Thee for their potential for strong, wise, constructive leadership. Help us to fulfill our obligation to them. Keep us from failing them in any way. May we be more to them than a generation which passes on advice—may we be examples of what we expect of them.

We thank Thee for good food—for fabulous resources of soil and weather and the hard work of farmers which produced it—the industry which processed it—and the faithful folk who prepared it and serve it. As we enjoy always more than enough of everything, may we remember those who never have enough of anything and, when possible, respond in compassion to their need. Help us to be grateful and selfless. In the name of the Totally Selfless One whose life and love were for all. Amen.

Benediction

Dinner in Honor of the Honorable Jennings Randolph Senior Senator, State of West Virginia

on the occasion of

His 81st Birthday and the 50th Anniversary of His Serving in Congress

Bolling AFB Officers Club

Washington, D.C.

Tuesday, March 8, 1983

Our Father in Heaven, in a day when our Nation languishes for Godly leadership, we thank Thee for Beloved Senator Jennings Randolph. We thank Thee for his integrity, his faithfulness, his wisdom, his fidelity, his unswerving dedication to public service and his devotion to the peoples' welfare. We thank Thee for his vision, his commitment to a broad range of human interests and need. We thank Thee for his honor and his love. Bless him, Lord, and assure him of our admiration, respect, love and affection. Thank you, Lord, we are a better world because of Jennings Randolph.

"The Lord bless thee, and keep thee. The Lord make his face to shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee. The Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon thee and give thee his peace, now and for ever." Amen.

Invocation

Rededication of the Old Post Office Building at Twelfth Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington

and

Dedication of the Ditchley Bells, the Bicentennial Gift of the United Kingdom to Congress.

Tuesday, April 19, 1983

Almighty God, Lord of Heaven and Earth, we invoke Thy presence and blessing upon this occasion. We thank Thee for history—for memories—for the legacy left us by our fathers. May we never presume upon the benefits which accrue to us from former generations.

We thank Thee for the blessing of bells, for those dedicated to their casting and care. We thank Thee for all that bells represent in our lives—for the victories they ring out in celebration—for reminding us of the time of day—for their tolling when we mourn and for the times they have alerted us to danger. We thank Thee when they summon us to worship. We thank Thee for bells.

We thank Thee also Sovereign God, for the friendship between two great nations and peoples which they represent. Sanctify this dedication service to the perpetuation of that friendship. We pray this in the name of Him whose entry into history made bells peal for joy. Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving Dedication, National Headquarters, Future Homemakers of America

Reston, Virginia

Tuesday, July 12, 1983

Gracious Father in Heaven, in a day when there is so much discouraging news about teen-age drug abuse, alcoholism and suicide, we are profoundly grateful for the 400 thousand young people who are the Future Homemakers of America. We thank Thee for the inspiration of their commitment to the family and the home, foundation of all social order. Thank Thee Father for the encouragement their lives generate for our Republic.

We thank Thee Lord for this building and the thousands of youth who have raised the funds to make it a reality. May they be specially blessed as they enjoy this fruit of their faithful labors. As this building is dedicated, dear God, we pray for its preservation and its use. As young and old pass through its doors and enjoy its ample facilities, may they be blessed in their activities and may this headquarters be a model of the dedication which inspired our forebears and made this the greatest Nation in history. We pray this in the name of Him, who in His youth, was obedient to His parents and whose life is the incarnation of love and light and truth. Amen.

Invocation
Dedication Ceremony
of the
Henry Clay Commemorative Stamp

The Old Senate Chamber in the Capitol

Wednesday, July 13, 1983

Omnipotent God, Sovereign Lord of history, Source of all things, from whom all human authority derives its power, we invoke Thy presence and blessings on this significant celebration of the life of a great American.

We thank Thee for the memory of Henry Clay, "The Great Compromiser", whose leadership in the Senate earned him the title, by one biographer, as "the greatest of the great Senators". We thank Thee for his love for people which provoked the admiration, even of his adversaries. We celebrate his persuasive oratory, which caused the galleries to "tremble with excitement" and his audience to "listen breathlessly" then "break out with shouts of enthusiasm and delight, weeping and laughing".

It is fitting that a stamp commemorate this uncommon man whose "art of parliamentary prowess and compromise" was legendary, whose encounter with sorrow and tragedy "made him one with all who suffered".

Bless this celebration gracious God to Thy glory and our Republic's honor. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Prayer of Intercession Memorial Service for the Honorable Henry M. Jackson Senior Senator from the State of Washington

National Presbyterian Church, Washington, D.C.

Tuesday, September 6, 1983

Almighty God, gracious Father in Heaven, we thank Thee for Senator Henry Jackson—for his long years of dedicated public service. We thank Thee for his integrity, for his honesty and his selflessness, for his strength and his gentleness, for his courage and his humility. We thank Thee on behalf of the numberless peoples in the world who have been and will be liberated because of his idealism and stubborn advocacy of human rights. We thank Thee, Lord, for the extraordinary life and service to the nation and the world, of this uncommon man.

God of all comfort, mindful of the immeasurable loss of this husband, father, friend and statesman, we remember those who bear it. We commend to Thy loving care and comfort, Mrs. Jackson. Fill her heart with your peace and strengthen her in the hours of loneliness. Bestow upon his children, Marie and Peter, assurances and encouragement. We pray for the multitude of friends whose lives will never be the same because of his friendship. We pray for the State of Washington, the Senate, the Nation, and for the one who will succeed Senator Jackson in public service. We know he is unique and irreplaceable, but we pray that his successor will be worthy to follow him, will take seriously the responsibility, and will pick up the torch in dedication and humility.

In the name of the Redeemer whose unconditional love and sacrifice were universal and impartial, opening the way to eternal life to all who trust Him. Amen.

Invocation

at the

Launching of the U.S.S. "Henry M. Jackson"

Saturday, October 15, 1983

Groton, Connecticut

Almighty God, Sovereign Lord of history, we invoke Thy presence on the occasion of this memorable event. We thank Thee for the dedicated life of service to which Senator Henry M. Jackson was devoted. We thank Thee for his lifelong commitment to freedom, human rights, and peace. As this ship is launched bearing his name, may it never have to be used destructively. Grant that it may prove to be an effective deterrent to conflict and that the passion for peace which characterized Senator Jackson will be served.

We ask Thy blessing upon all who will command and serve on the Henry M. Jackson. We thank Thee for their commitment to peace and their dedication to the service of their country. We pray this in the name of Him who was Incarnate Love and the Prince of Peace. Amen

Invocation
Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee Dinner

in honor of

Senator Russell Long of Louisiana

Washington Hilton Hotel

Tuesday, October 25, 1983

Gracious God and Father, we invoke Thy presence and blessing upon this auspicious evening as we gather to honor one whose 35 years in the Senate is exceeded only by one of his peers, Senator Stennis. We thank Thee for Senator Long's significant record of dedicated public service following that of his father and mother. We thank Thee for his commitment to service in the Senate, for his genius in monetary matters, his communicative zeal which so often inspires his colleagues, his broad interest in national and international affairs, his concern for the welfare of the people, the security of our nation and its responsibility to the world. We thank Thee for his integrity, his courage, and the respect, admiration and affection which his colleagues and his staff feel for him. We pray Thy special blessing upon him and his lady, Carolyn.

As we honor Senator Long, we are reminded of a colleague who was third in length of service in the Senate, Senator Henry M. Jackson. We thank Thee for the memory of this great public servant and his profound influence upon the Senate, the nation and the world.

We are grateful dear God, for this enjoyable evening and the pleasure of each others company, but we do not forget the mindless massacre in Lebanon, the families of those Marines whose lives were taken, the injured Marines and their loved ones and those who live in apprehension because they have no specific word. Fill them with Thy peace and love.

We thank Thee, faithful God, for the good food we enjoy, the farmers who produced it, the industry which processed it, the faithful men and women who prepared and serve it. May we, who always have more than enough of everything, be mindful and caring to those who never have enough of anything. In the name of Him who is Incarnate Love. Amen.

Invocation

at

Service in Remembrance of President John Fitzgerald Kennedy on the twentieth anniversary of his assassination

In the Great Rotunda of the U.S. Capitol

Wednesday, November 16, 1983

Lord of light and life, we invoke Thy presence and blessing upon this service of remembrance. We thank Thee for the memory of President John F. Kennedy—the energy, the exhilaration, the spontaneity, the aliveness, the humor, the hope, with which he infused the Nation.

We thank Thee for unforgettable statements which invigorated people with a new sense of responsibility and involvement in the affairs of the Republic. We thank Thee for the memory of a little boy and a little girl sometimes at the President's side midst Heads of State and other dignitaries.

We recall as though it were yesterday, the universal trauma upon news of his death, which engraved upon the hearts of all people that unbelievable moment. Thank Thee, gracious Father in Heaven for the priceless memory of John F. Kennedy. We pray in the name of Him whose death brought life, Jesus, Christ, Lord. Amen.

Invocation
Dedication Ceremony

of the

Commemorative Stamp Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the National Archives and Records Service

Rotunda of the National Archives Building

Friday, December 2, 1983

Almighty God, Sovereign Lord of history, we invoke Thy presence and blessing on this nationally significant occasion. We thank Thee that "what is past is prologue". We thank Thee for all that connects us with the past which gives promise for the future. We thank Thee for memory—for the power to recall, record and retain the events and experiences of the past. We thank Thee for a place where these important memories are respected, honored and secured. We remember that the peril of those who refuse to learn from history is that they condemn themselves to making the same mistakes.

We are grateful loving Father, that the Judeo-Christian tradition, upon which our Republic was founded, is rooted and grounded in events, not ideas—in history, not speculation—and that we have a secure record of that history in the Bible.

As we celebrate this Fiftieth Anniversary of the National Archives gracious God, and in gratitude for those who conceived and consummated the National Archives and for those who have continued through the years to preserve its integrity, we ask Thy blessing upon this institution and all who are involved in its present operation and will be in its future. We pray this in the name of Him who is Incarnate Truth. Amen.

Invocation Dinner of High Frontier Marking the 1st Anniversary of President Reagan's Speech on a Space Station

Sheraton Washington Hotel

Friday, March 23, 1984

Almighty God, Creator of all that is, Whom the heaven of heavens cannot contain—Eternal Father, Sovereign Lord of history and nations—we invoke Thy presence on this gathering. Thou art the God of the infinite, the planets revolve in their courses according to Thy will. Thou art the God of the infinitesimal. A sparrow does not fall to the ground but Thou dost know it.

God of the macrocosm and the microcosm, grant us to realize that men conquer space only by learning the physical laws which Thou didst ordain, and to violate that order is to fail. Help us to see Lord, that as Thou hast established physical order Thou hast established spiritual and moral order which, if violated, will destroy us. Make us as wise in the things of the spirit as we are in the realm of the material.

Gracious Father, thank Thee for the pleasure of each others company and more than enough to eat. As we, who always have more than enough of everything, enjoy this good food help us compassionately to remember those who are lonely and never have enough of anything. In the name of Him who loved unconditionally, impartially, and eternally. Amen.

Dinner Invocation The Congressional Wives for Soviet Jewry

Caucus Room, Russell Office Building

Tuesday, April 3, 1984

God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, Lord of Truth and Justice we invoke Thy presence and grace upon this gathering. We recall with sadness the suffering which Thy people Israel, have had to endure through the centuries and still today. We abhor the evil that caused the suffering and we are ashamed of those who profess to be Christian who have participated in it.

We thank Thee, gracious God, for all who have responded in indignation and love to the hurt of Thy people and especially for those here this evening who care and stand against the evil. May Thy blessing abide upon them. We praise Thee, O God, for the immense contribution Jewish men and women have made to history and we are aware of the immeasurable poverty of the world without that contribution.

For the pleasure of each other's company here, for good food and comfortable surroundings we thank Thee Lord. May we, who always have more than enough of everything, remember with compassion those who never have enough of anything. In the name of Him who is Incarnate Love. Amen.

Invocation Cherry Blossom Festival Luncheon

Shoreham Washington Hotel, Regency Room
Washington, D.C.

Wednesday, April 4, 1984

Gracious God of light and life, our hearts rejoice in the renaissance of beauty and fragrance which comes with Spring. We thank Thee for the birdsongs of those lovely creatures which have been away for the Winter and have now come home. We thank Thee for the freshness in the air, for the exploding blossoms, for the returning green, and for all the beauty which springs to life at this season.

We thank Thee for the cherry blossoms, for the friendship with Japan which they celebrate, for their faithful return year after year, the pleasure they give to those who see them and the beauty with which they enhance our city. Dear God, may we never forget that Thou art the source of light and life of fragrance and beauty.

We thank Thee for the pleasure of this company, for the gift of good food, faithful farmers who produced it, the industry which processed it and those who prepare and serve it. Help us never to presume upon the privileges we enjoy in such abundance. Grant, dear Lord, that we, who always have more than enough of everything, may remember with compassion those who never have enough of anything. We pray this in the name of Him whose love was unconditional, impartial, sacrificial and eternal. Amen.

Invocation
Daughters of the American Revolution
93d Continental Congress
National Defense Night

Constitution Hall, Washington, D.C.

Tuesday, April 17, 1984

Almighty God, Lord of history and the nations, we invoke Thy presence in this event. We recall the word of the Psalmist, . . . *except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.*—Psalm 127: 1. *The Lord is my rock and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust . . . .*—Psalm 18: 2.

We thank Thee Lord for our military strength, for the men and women who are dedicated to the security and defense of our Nation; but we remember, Heavenly Father, that the mighty Roman Empire, with its trained legions deployed throughout the world, was defenseless, because of spiritual and moral rot and corruption within its culture. We, the strongest nation in history, can not be destroyed by forces from without but we may from decadence within.

Thou art the God of Moses, who conquered Pharaoh the Mighty and his army. Thou art the God of Joshua which impregnable Jericho could not withstand. Thou art the God of Gideon whose small band of 300 was victorious against a great army. Thou art the God of David, the shepherd boy, who slew giant Goliath and defeated the Philistines.

And Lord, we recall this evening the moral strength of one man, Jeremiah Denton, whom a fanatic and cruel military could not conquer. And Thou art the God of our Republic unless we forget Thee and forsake Thee. Awaken America to her need of spiritual and moral renewal. Unite us in the will to peace and grant that each of us here this evening will be committed to that which makes for peace. In the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

Benediction
Joint Meeting of the 98th Congress
In Commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of the Birth of Harry S Truman

Tuesday, May 8, 1984

Sovereign Lord of history—we thank Thee for the memory of Harry S Truman—a very uncommon, common man—God fearing—Bible loving—strong and courageous—honest—plain spoken—noble—gutsy—humble—he embodied all the virtues and values precious to our Republic. Gracious Father, we thank Thee for this very uncommon—common citizen-president.

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up the light of His countenance upon you and give you His peace. Amen.

Invocation
The President's Dinner

(Hosted by the Senate and House Republican Committees)

Washington Hilton Hotel

Thursday, May 10, 1984

Almighty God, Lord of nations and history, we invoke Thy presence upon this significant event. In gratitude for the strong leadership President and Mrs. Reagan have given our Nation, we pray for them, their loved ones and all who serve with them, a special dispensation of grace for health, strength, wisdom and safety.

We thank Thee, Father in Heaven, for those who planned this evening and we pray that the purpose for which this event was conceived will be abundantly fulfilled and that those who bore responsibility will enjoy total satisfaction in what is achieved here.

Mindful of the Biblical injunction that public servants serve by divine appointment, are ministers of God for the common good and are finally accountable to Thee, grant, dear Lord, that this evening in all its implications for the future, may please and honor Thee as it benefits the Nation and the World.

For the pleasure of each others company we give Thee thanks and pray that we may love and serve one another. We thank Thee for the good food which we enjoy, the farmers who produced it, the industry which processed it, and those who prepare and serve it. May we, who always have more than enough of everything, be sensitive, compassionate and caring for those who never have enough of anything. We pray in the name of Him who in sacrificial love endured the ignominy of crucifixion that we might have life. Amen.

Invocation

Luncheon by the Commission on Presidential Scholars Honoring the 1984 U.S. Presidential Scholars

Caucus Room, Russell Senate Office Building

Thursday, June 21, 1984

Father God, we thank Thee for this very significant gathering. Just a few short, fast-moving years stand between the leadership of our Nation today and these leaders of the future.

We are grateful Lord, for youth who take life seriously without losing their sense of humor, their ability to laugh and have fun. We are grateful for young men and women who have their values straight and their priorities in order. We ask Thy blessing upon them, their families, their schools and their cities. May their lives be God-directed as they move through college to their destinies. Give them wisdom and power to influence their generation toward the fundamental values which have guaranteed America's greatness.

We thank Thee for good food, the farmers who produce it—the industry which processed it and those who prepare and serve it. Help us never to take these common benefits for granted. Grant that we, always have more than enough of everything, remember with compassion those who never have enough of anything. In the name of Him who is Love Incarnate. Amen.

Invocation West Virginia National Youth Science Camp Luncheon with U.S. Senators

Room 106, Dirksen Office Building

Wednesday, July 25, 1984

Father in Heaven, at a time when there is a great deal of negative thinking about the "younger generation"—when they are being criticized, often cynically—we thank Thee for young men and women who take life seriously. We are grateful for the intellectual discipline to which these young people present are committed. May this time together with the leaders of the Nation and their peers be a benefit to them, the schools they represent and to the leaders they have an opportunity of meeting. Let Thy blessing abide upon them, their families, their schools and their States. Grant to them a vision for public service as they remember how soon the leadership of the Nation and the world will rest with their generation.

We praise Thee for Senator Jennings Randolph, for his long years of public service, for his dedicated interest in youth and the leadership he has given to young people for so many years.

We thank Thee for good food, for the farmers that produced it, the industry which processed it and those who prepare and serve it. May we who always have more than enough of everything remember with compassion those who never have enough of anything. In the name of Him who is Incarnate Love. Amen.

Invocation
Senate Staff Club Dinner-Dance

La Fontaine-Bleu Dinner Club, Lanham, Maryland

Saturday, September 8, 1984

Almighty God, Father of us all, we invoke your blessing upon Senate staff and spouses this evening. Thank you for dedicated, hardworking men and women, hidden behind the scenes of public life, devoting most of their talent and expertise in anonymity. Yet without them, the public servants whom they serve could not deliver on their mandate for the people.

Grant gracious God, that this evening will be filled with joy and blessing. We thank you for the pleasure of each other's company. Help us to contribute to each other's benefit. Help us to love one another—serve one another—honor one another. May the happiness of this evening so embrace all of us that loneliness, hurt, frustration and fear will be dissolved in every heart.

We thank You for good food, for the farmers who produced it, the industry which processed it, those who prepare and serve it. May we, who always have more than enough of everything, remember with compassion those who never have enough of anything. We pray in the name of Him who was Incarnate Truth, Justice and Love. Amen.

Benediction The Dedication of the Portrait Bust of Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey

The Brumidi Corridor in the Capitol

Tuesday, September 11, 1984

God of justice, we are profoundly grateful for the memory of a truly good, great, gentle, gregarious, gracious, generous gentleman, the Honorable Hubert Horatio Humphrey.

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.—Numbers 6: 24–26. Amen.